

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 6th July, at the Government Civil Hospital, the wife of R. G. McEWEN, of a son.

On the 10th July, at "The Avenue," Northam Road, Penang, the wife of A. L. DE MORNAY, of a son.

On the 15th July, at "Westbourne," Giltstead Hill, Singapore, the wife of W. M. MACBEAN, agent, Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., of a daughter.

On the 17th July, at Shanghai, the wife of ERNEST R. PALMER, of a son.

On the 18th July, at 3, West End Lane, Shanghai, the wife of JOHN WHITELAW, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 8th July, at St. John's Church, Hankow, THOMAS ALEXANDER STEWART CAMERON, son of J. B. CAMERON, to MARY, eldest daughter of the late SAMUEL ED. WILLIAMS, of Tientsin.

On the 15th July, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. B. C. Hodges, REGINALD AUGUSTUS RICKARD, second son of MARTIN RICKARD, Truro, Cornwall, England, to EMILY JANE TAYLOR, third daughter of HENRY TAYLOR, Sydney, N.S.W.

DEATHS.

On the 6th July, at Yokohama, JOHN GODDARD, aged 8 years.

On the 10th July, at 38, Range Road, MARY MARTIN, wife of TIMOTHY RICHARD, aged 59 years.

On the 13th July, at 29, Range Road, Shanghai, ALEXANDER, son of MICHAEL and ALEXANDRA HESSEN, aged three and a half years.

On the 14th July, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, J. SMITH, pilot, Ningpo, aged 70 years.

On the 16th July, at Kobe, HENRY JAMES GORMAN, eldest son of the late HENRY JAMES GORMAN, of Yokohama, aged 22 years.

On the 18th July, at Foochow, EMILY CLARA CORDA, the infant daughter of G. SIEMSEN, H.G.M.'s Consul.

On 20th July, at 7 p.m., at the Spanish Dominican Procuration, 32, Caine Road, the Rev. Father HILARIO M. OCHOA, aged 63 years.

On the 23rd July, at Nagasaki, DAVID McMURRAY, late chief engineer, Indo-China S. N. Co. s.s. *Kiang*, aged 46 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 23rd ult., arrived per N. D. L. steamer *Sachsen* on the 22nd inst., (29 days); the American mail from San Francisco 27th ult., arrived per steamer *Guelic* on 25th inst., (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

Two revolutionaries were arrested on the 18th inst. in Peking, and were to be promptly beheaded. More arrests were expected.

A Seoul telegram of the 14th inst. says that the officers of the Korean Imperial Household in consultation with the Cabinet have agreed upon the policy of opening Wijn, and the question is to be finally disposed of as soon as the Foreign Minister resumes duty.

A determined effort is to be made by the Customs authorities to stop the smuggling of Chinese into Manila. In future every vessel entering the port of Manila from any and all Chinese ports will be thoroughly searched by the Secret Service Department of the Custom House.

At the *Supao* sedition trial in the Mixed Court, Shanghai, on the 21st inst. the case was adjourned on the receipt of orders from the Diplomatic Body, who apparently, our Shanghai correspondent says, contemplate allowing the rendition of the accused to the Chinese officials without the necessary preliminary trial in the Mixed Court.

A special to the *Shanghai Times* dated Peking, July 16, says:—"A Shensi despatch received in this city states that there was an anti-Christian uprising in Pinli-hsien in Shunau-fu. Two missionaries are still missing. The Viceroy and the Governor have been ordered to settle the matter without delay." There is no confirmation at present of this report about the missionaries.

Eleven Russian torpedo-boat destroyers were to leave Kronstadt yesterday, (the 26th instant, to reinforce the Russian Squadron in the Far East. The *Standard's* Odessa correspondent says it is reported from Moscow that 128,000 men of the Central Northern garrisons are being mobilised for immediate despatch to the Far East in case of need. Peace preparations evidently continue.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., with Captain J. B. Arbuthnot, A.D.C., called on his Lordship the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli on Thursday evening and offered his condolences on the death of Pope Leo. To-morrow, at 8.30 a.m., a requiem service for the late Pope will be held in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Hongkong, the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli officiating. The service will consist of the solemn requiem mass, followed by the exequies. For the occasion the church will be draped in black, and the mass will be sung to Gregorian music by the choir.

The new Chinese Imperial Mint which is to be constructed in Tientsin is to be built near the East bank of the Peiho river, and is to be very large affair, according to the *N.-C. Daily News*. On the 8th inst., Ch'en Pih, Governor of Peking, and P'u Hsing, Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, who have been appointed Assistant Directors of the new Mint, came down from Peking to take a look at the proposed site in order to report the matter to the Throne. If nothing prevents, the new Imperial Mint is expected to be in working order the beginning of the winter of 1904.

Mr. Hector Sampson committed suicide at Shanghai on the 21st inst. The late Mr. Sampson was formerly well known here, where he was born and where he received his education at the Government Central School, now Queen's College, some twenty-five or more years ago. He was an assistant for Messrs. Lane, Crawford and Co. for some time after leaving school, and then proceeded to the Harbour Office, where his father was employed. Removing to Shanghai he has had a very varied career, as assistant in a mercantile firm, broker, insurance canvasser, etc. He was a keen and enthusiastic sportsman. No motive can be assigned for his suicide, as far as we know. He leaves a wife, and other members of his family are, we believe, in Shanghai.

The *Kobe Chronicle* says:—"The acceptance by Marquis Ito of the post of President of the Privy Council is a practical relinquishment of his position as leader of the Constitutional party, as it is an unwritten law in Japan that members of the Privy Council, who are advisers of the Emperor, cannot at the same time be a member of a political party. His acceptance of the post may be regarded as marking the end of the struggle between himself and Count Katsura, in which Count Katsura has proved victorious. It may be shrewdly judged that the position of antagonism to their leader which has grown up in the Constitutional party, and the defection from its ranks which recently occurred, have had no small part in inducing Marquis Ito to take a step which practically cuts him off from participating in party politics. The result will be watched with no little interest.

With regard to the financial position of Japan, the *N.-C. Daily News* correspondent, writing under date Tokyo, 15th July, says:—"The gold reserve at the Bank of Japan is announced to be 113 million yen. The Bank also holds 40 million yen in gold bullion and foreign gold bonds, and the Treasury 20 millions, thus showing 173 millions of gold against notes issued to the amount of 200 million yen. This is an unprecedented situation and the rate of interest is gradually falling. New stocks, companies, and concerns are being floated. The foreign trade for the first half-year shows a large increase both in exports and imports, but the excess of imports is owing to last autumn's bad rice-crops. Now, with a favourable climate, there are hopes of a good harvest. A strong conflict is anticipated about the next Budget. One party of officials advocates a reduction in administrative expenses and increased taxation, while others timidly advise domestic loans for the naval increment. This controversy in no wise shows financial weakness, but only a difference of opinion."

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 20th July.)

One of the most difficult lessons for a government to learn is the advantage to itself of encouraging the liberty of the Press. The Chinese Government, it may almost be said, owes its very existence to the modified liberty which during its mad frolic of 1900, by accident of circumstances, came to be accorded to the vernacular Press; when, amid the wreck of the administration, the common sense of the people, backed up by the native papers, came to the front, and pointed out the inevitable end towards which the truculent leaders who had taken possession of the reins of power in Peking were guiding the Empire. It may be remembered that in the spring and early summer of 1900, when the existence of China was trembling in the balance, and the Yangtze Viceroy, LIU and CHANG were still doubtful of the course that patriotism dictated, a series of meetings entirely promoted by natives on their own initiative was held at CHANG SHU-HO's Gardens in Shanghai, and resolutions adopted which were duly telegraphed to the Viceroy with a request to have them sent on to Peking. The two Viceroy, who to their honour had kept aloof from the follies of the capital, finding that the people were disposed to back them up in more vigorous measures, gladly accepted the proposed course, and assisted by the unanimous voice of the native Press were able to bring so much influence, moral as well as physical, to bear, that the Dowager Empress's wild schemes were brought to naught, and the Court induced to return to Peking. During the whole of this trying period the attitude of the native Press was marked not only by an unexpected patriotism but by a loyalty equally unlooked for. The attitude of the people showed itself well represented in the Press at large, and all attempts at revolutionary schemes were studiously avoided, and the assistance rendered to them in their attempts to stem the reactionary proceedings at Peking was gratefully acknowledged by the two Viceroy. It was of course not to be expected that the action of the native papers should be so gratefully regarded by the reactionary party; and accordingly since the return of the Court we have from time to time been made unpleasantly conscious of attempts to muzzle the native Press, and convert it into a weapon for reintroducing the old reactionary spirit, which to the great advantage of the nation at large have hitherto been frustrated. Of late a new element of danger has arisen; following a widely expressed wish that the Chinese Government should send some of its more-promising students abroad to learn the reasons which have made the other nations so much more powerful and so be able to teach their own people better systems of administration, certain students were sent over to Japan; and some of these, dazzled by the fallacies of young Japan, have been exhibiting tendencies more or less revolutionary in their character, and this has aroused the fears of a section of the Chinese Government, probably well meaning men themselves, but who under an unfounded panic have been induced to lend their aid to the schemes of the reactionary party. Such things are of course inevitable; the new atmosphere into which these youths were introduced was so unlike the dreary surroundings to which they had been accustomed that older and wiser heads than those of the students might well have been

turned. Knowing this we might have expected the advisers of the Government to have been discreet; the way to turn a foolish hot-headed youth from the errors of his way is by gentle treatment rather than by vindictive punishment. This is a lesson hard to be learned by a government so deeply ruled by tradition as that of China. Forgetful of the folly from which it has only escaped by the skin of its teeth, it is all the more anxious to crush out what it conceives to be the fault of its servants and pauses not to remember that it itself has been forgiven the immeasurably greater crime against humanity at large of which but yesterday it stood convicted before the whole world.

This is the spirit in which recently the Chinese Government, as represented by the Empress Dowager and her advisers, has been seeking to extinguish the liberty of the Press, and to pay off its individual members for the part they took in preserving the Empire. Lately another meeting was held at CHANG SHU-HO's Garden, wherein certain resolutions were proposed bearing on the supposed application of the Governor of Kwangsi to the French for military assistance towards putting down rebellion in his province. It is quite true that certain things were said at that meeting which verged on the seditious. They were apparently the silly fumings of some of the returned students from Japan, and in themselves were certainly best left unnoticed—the more so as the more influential and respectable of the Chinese community refused to have anything to say to the meeting. Not so thought the advisers of the Empress Dowager, who have been seeking by every means, legal or the reverse, to get possession of the unfortunate youths, not to try them, but simply to have them tortured and beheaded. Fortunately after a good deal of friction, and as a matter of necessity where so many interests are concerned, the mode of proceeding in the case of arrest by the Chinese authorities in the Foreign Settlements at Shanghai was some months ago settled in terms too plain to permit of any misunderstanding; the warrant for the arrest needing to be countersigned by the Senior Consul, and the arrest effected with the assistance of the Settlement police. After vainly trying by other means to get the six young men accused into their clutches, the local Taotai at last proceeded in the regular manner, but suggesting to the Consuls that, the affair being Chinese, the accused should be handed over to the city authorities for decision. As it was not concealed that the orders that had come from Peking were for the instant execution of all six accused, the Senior Consul pointed out that in terms of the arrangement entered into it was necessary that the case should come first before the Mixed Court to discover the *bona fides* of the charge. There was no desire to interfere with the laws of China, nor the administration of justice; but the present seemed to be *prima facie* a case where revenge, not justice was concerned, and according to the practice of all civilised nations it was manifestly impossible unless some sort of a case were made out to deliver up the parties to what was intended to be a barbarous death. Probably the Taotai was not altogether displeased at being relieved from what to him must have been a disagreeable and profitless task, so that he has consented to have the case heard before him with the assistance of a court of Consuls. Although, as we have stated, the body of the respectable Chinese have refused to countenance in any way the opinions expressed by the hasty orators,

the means taken by the Peking Government and its very evident exhibition of revengeful feeling, have made a simple fault at best punishable with a few weeks, or at most months' imprisonment, into an important political question. The worst use you can make of a wrong-doer is to convert him into a martyr, and this is just what the Peking Government is doing its very best to accomplish.

GOVERNMENT AND REFORM IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 24th July.)

The prospects of reform in China at the present moment are, it must be confessed, of the slenderest and most unstable character. The labourers in this vineyard, to begin with, are few and not of the stoutest heart. They need strenuous encouragement, and they are likely to wither if it fails them. Unfortunately the encouragement they get from foreign sympathisers is of a very negative kind, and merely assumes the form of protection from consequences. In fact, it is seldom that it can take shape; it can only come in the guise of harbourage on reaching foreign soil. Meantime the Chinese so-called Government seems to have passed from the stage of exhibiting angry disfavour towards the friends of progress in China to that of active persecution, and various measures are being adopted—some grotesque, others tyrannical—to stamp out the aspirations for reform within the Empire. The success of the Chinese Government in procuring the arrest of native journalists in Shanghai has inspired them to pursue a course of repression which they hope may nip the reform movement in the bud. It seems that a prominent native bookshop in Wuchang has received a telegram stating that the authorities of Hupeh have been instructed from Peking to prohibit the reading by the public and the sale of the *History of the Japanese Reformation, or Restoration of the Mikado*, and that this order is but the precursor of others intended to compass the suppression of all literature bearing on reform. All officials showing an inclination to aid or encourage reform in China are also, meanwhile, regarded by the Chinese Government more or less as conspirators and placed under surveillance or viewed with suspicion. So much is this the case that His Excellency CHANG PAH-SHI, the enlightened and liberal-minded Chancellor of the University of Peking, has felt impelled to send in his resignation to the Throne, on the avowed ground that the opposition to his educational schemes has recently become so strong that he has no alternative but to resign his post. It is also announced that Prince SU, who has latterly been regarded as the leader of the Progressive party, has become so disgusted by the attacks of the Censors that he has sent in a request for a lengthened leave of absence on the plea of sickness.

The crusade against the native journalists will serve, we fear, to act as a douche upon the advocates of progress in the native Press. The plant of freedom is such a pure exotic in China that the merest breath will be sufficient to crush it. All the good work that has been gradually built up during the last quarter of a century in forming a nascent public opinion in China seems likely to be effaced by the rude hand of the Peking Censors, who have probably been inspired by the conservative forces within the Palace, as represented by the Empress Dowager. That astute personage would appear to be halting all the while between two opinions; fearing

to oppose openly all remedial measures and progressive movements, but secretly disapproving of everything in the shape of reform. Her Majesty is not, however, wholly blind to the handwriting on the wall; she is evidently fearful that some new outbreak will presently make Peking an undesirable place of residence, and is making arrangements to leave open a retreat to Kaifeng-fu, the capital of Honan province, which she would like to make the new metropolis of the Empire. It is stated that she has recently again sent special orders to the provincial authorities at Kaifeng to keep the quarters occupied by the Court there in 1901 in the best of repair and to be ready to receive her at any time. For this reason also the barges that were specially built in 1901 to carry the Court *personnel* and baggage across the Yellow River near Kaifeng have been recently repaired and repainted, while the road between the river landing and the city has likewise been mended and placed in a condition to admit of comfortable and easy transport over it. It is evident that, in the event of fresh troubles in Peking, the Court would not linger long in the centre of danger. Altogether it is becoming increasingly apparent that the Government of China is lacking in every element of stability, while at the same time has no sympathy with progressive measures. The outlook for the future in China is therefore singularly devoid of encouragement. It seems impossible either to place any trust in the pledges of the Imperial Government, or to endeavour to bolster it up and stop the process of disintegration which the policy now being developed by Russia in Manchuria is effectually provoking.

TROPICAL MEDICINE AND THE MALARIA RESEARCH.

(Daily Press, 25th July.)

Dr. CHALMERS MITCHELL, the well-known medical and biological writer who has lately been elected Secretary of the Zoological Society in London, discussed recently a tendency in mankind, which he ventured to forecast, to press forward from the temperate regions toward the tropics. The two vital considerations necessitating this movement Dr. MITCHELL sees in the question of fuel and food. The fuel question is still so far a matter for the distant future that we have no need to think of the day when we must look to the sun for our supply of heat and energy; but already the reserve of food is so small that the world may be said to be living on its food income. The latter being directly dependent on the sun, argues Dr. MITCHELL, man may at no distant date be driven to those regions where the supply of solar energy is greatest and most constant. What, he asks, will be man's conditions of life and well-being when he gets to the tropics? At present fevers, malaria, and diseases of the liver, the blood, and the skin attack the white man who ventures to the tropics; but, after all, why are these worse than tubercle, the pneumonia, the rheumatism which afflict the black man who comes to the white man's country? A few generations of natural selection would render the white man as immune to malaria, for example, as the negro. This brings us to an interesting subject, that of the battle with malaria, which of all the ills mentioned above must be considered the most serious against which the white man has to fight. A Parliamentary paper has just been issued containing "papers relating to the investigation of malaria and other tropical diseases and the establishment

of schools of tropical medicine," commencing with a circular despatch addressed by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN to the Governors of all British Colonies on the 28th May, in which the progress of malaria investigation and of the training of medical officers in the treatment and prevention of tropical disease is reviewed. It was owing largely to Dr. PATRICK MANSON, whose name is very familiar in Hongkong, that the attention of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN was definitely directed to the importance of scientific enquiry into the causes of malaria and of special education in tropical medicine for the medical officers of Crown Colonies. This was toward the end of the year 1897. In pursuance of the second of these objects, says the Colonial Secretary, it seemed advisable (1) that a special training school in tropical medicine should be established; (2) that the leading British medical schools should be induced to give greater prominence in their schemes of study to tropical medicine; (3) that the periodical reports sent in from the tropical Colonies and Protectorates should be recast on one uniform type designed to throw light on the prevailing tropical diseases. The result of the Colonial Office's negotiations was the opening in November, 1899, of a tropical school in the branch hospital of the Seamen's Society at the Albert Docks. Shortly before, an excellently equipped school of tropical diseases had been established at University College, Liverpool, which has been placed on the same footing as the London school. The result of the establishment of these schools is already that medical men selected for foreign appointments enter now upon their duties with special knowledge of the maladies with which they have to deal. Naturally such success could not be attained without considerable expenditure of money, and now the managers of the London school contemplate improvements and extensions which are estimated to cost about £12,000. Of this, says Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, no more than £3,000 is at present available. "The Governments of Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, and Hongkong have each promised a subsidy of £100 per annum for five years toward the revenue of the school." But these, even backed by private munificence, are insufficient to meet growing requirements. "It is clear," says the Colonial Secretary toward the end of his despatch, "that the work cannot stand still, and as long as those who can speak with the authority of science are confident that by human effort the rate of mortality from malaria and other tropical diseases can be greatly reduced and the strength and efficiency of European residents in unhealthy climates can be sensibly increased, so long, in my opinion, ought funds to be forthcoming for carrying on what has been so well begun."

Included in the papers of which Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's letter is the first is a report by Drs. STEPHENS and CHRISTOPHERS, who made an elaborate investigation into native malaria and malarial prophylaxis, as well as into the nature of blackwater fever, by observations in Central and West Africa and India. Into the details of their report (which fully confirms the theories of Major Ross) we do not propose here to go. There is, however, one point of special interest which they and at about the same time Professor KOCH discovered, to which we must not omit to draw attention. This is that while the native adult in malarial regions is in great measure immune towards malaria, the disease is exceedingly prevalent among the native children. Drs. STEPHENS and CHRISTOPHERS showed, indeed, that this was

so much the case that in these regions the native is a prime agent in the infection of Europeans with malaria, and that the segregation of the white man from the native and the avoidance of native huts, which are nests of infected anopheles, form a potent means for the prevention of the disease. The importance of this discovery from a prophylactic point of view is of the first order, remarks Sir MICHAEL FOSTER, secretary of the Royal Society, in a letter to the Colonial Office covering the two doctors' report. This infection of the blood of native children was found equally in Africa and India, and the researchers maintain that in any district the percentage of native children infected with the parasite may be taken as the index of the prevalence of malaria in the district, or, as they term it, of malarial endemicity; and they have determined the connection of this index with the presence or nearness of the breeding-places of the species of anopheles serving as carriers of infection. It would be interesting to know what support Hongkong, which suffers so severely from malaria, furnishes for the theory which Africa and India seem conclusively to prove.

THE LAW COURTS AND THE POST OFFICE.

(Daily Press, 22nd July.)

The discussion raised by the Hon. GERSHOM STEWART in the Legislative Council on Monday last will, though perhaps not directly, have some useful effect. When we say not directly we have regard to the official replies given, which were not wholly satisfactory. The questions put elicited the facts that, after a long delay, a tender for erection of the new Law Courts has been accepted and "it is hoped that the work will soon be gone on with." Also that the cost of the site for the new Post Office was \$508,280, and it was paid in March, 1902. One of the designs sent in at the recent competition by local architects has been accepted, and it is anticipated that tenders for the foundations will be called for in about a month. Why all this unnecessary delay? Why not call for tenders for the Post Office at once, and why is not the erection of the Law Courts proceeded with? The Government seem to have absolutely no conception of the value of either time or money. They are, from a business point of view, the merest babes and sucklings. Perhaps, as some assistance to the understanding of the officials, it may be as well to point the moral with an illustration. The sum of \$503,280 has been paid for the site of the Post Office. That capital amount has been already increased by interest on it to \$546,529; in other words the interest on the sum, reckoned from 31st March, 1902, to 31st July, 1903, at 6 per cent. per annum, amounts to \$41,240, from which we deduct \$3,000, the rent paid by the contractor, who has made a lumber-yard of the site, and pays, we believe, \$200 per month for his occupation. This little fact should be sufficient illustration of the necessity both of saving time and getting on with the work of construction. The Colonial Secretary made a weak endeavour not to defend the Government procrastination so much as to palliate its effects. He pointed out that during the delay the value of the property had been increasing all the time. This is true enough, but it does not affect the argument in the least, as the Government has no intention of selling. Moreover, there was the chance of the opposite tendency: the property might have depreciated in value. In any case, as Mr. STEWART

rightly pointed out, this is speculation, and the Government does not and cannot speculate either in land or buildings. We might also, to pursue the argument a little farther, remind the Colonial Secretary that the tendency, in the cost of building, is most distinctly upwards, both labour and materials having lately appreciated very considerably. It is not too much to assert, we think, that the cost of both the Queen's College and the Central Markets was enormously augmented through the sinful delays attending their construction. With two such monuments of waste of public funds before us, we ought never to suffer again from a similar cause, and we sincerely hope, therefore, that the work on the new Law Courts will "soon be gone on with." It is surely time it was commenced. But we shall be agreeably surprised if months do not elapse before a stone of the building is laid.

The remarks of His Excellency the Governor in concluding the debate, we are sorry to note, though not so discursive and inconsequent as those of the Hon. R. SHEWAN, were not by any means reassuring as regards the progress of pending works. Sir HENRY BLAKE dragged in the Water-works and the Harbour Office, which were not under discussion, and then, having lumped the whole of the pending public works together, estimated the cost at over three million dollars and remarked that it was not to be expected that such works could be constructed in a day. This is so obvious that we imagine there is not an individual in the Colony who would have the temerity to dispute it. But what the public are saying, and Mr. STEWART, in giving voice to their complaint, stated, is that time is being lost, and while huge private buildings have grown up around and have long been occupied, the sites whereon the Government buildings are to stand still lie grass-grown and untenanted. The Governor next defended the Director of Public Works for not accepting a tender for the erection of the Law Courts because it was too high, and this may have been fully merited, though, not being in possession of figures, the public can hardly be expected to judge. Nor ourselves, we are content to accept His Excellency's assurance on the subject. At the same time we would again ask why, if no reasonable tender was forthcoming, did not the Government decide to carry on the work with the means at their disposal as a private individual who cannot get a satisfactory contract would have done? They were certainly not justified in throwing away public funds thus recklessly, and ought to have lost no time in proceeding with the work without a contractor. Sir HENRY BLAKE made one very satisfactory announcement when he stated that it is proposed the large and valuable site opposite to the Hongkong Club, as well as the ground at present occupied by the temporary Reclamation offices and the larger weed-grown strip to the south, should be made into public gardens in perpetuity. We should have been still better pleased, however—and we speak for the entire community—if His Excellency had also stated when it was to be redeemed from its present condition. How many more years are to elapse before the Government side of this ornamental garden is made to correspond with the charming ones created by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation? It would, we should have thought, have been a pleasing recollection for Sir HENRY BLAKE to have carried away with him, that this work had been completed during his administration, but judging by the rate at

which this laggard Government moves it will be another decade before the centre of the city assumes the aspect which it is designed ultimately to wear.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 18th July.)

The *London and China Express* of the 19th June understands that at the international conference to study the best means for establishing stable relations in the value of money between countries with a gold, and those with a silver, standard, which met at the Foreign Office in London on the previous day, an arrangement was arrived at respecting the currency of China. It is rather curious that REUTER should not have thought this news suitable to be telegraphed out to the Far East, even though the terms arrived at were not made public. The conference in question was between representatives of Great Britain, China, and Mexico, and the members of the United States Commission then on a visit to London. The latter Commission was sent out from the United States in connection with the proposal to obtain some working plan on which silver may be utilised as a currency on a more stable basis than has prevailed of recent years. After the identical notes presented by China and Mexico to the United States administration, President ROOSEVELT referred to the question in his message to Congress, and the Commission was nominated to investigate the matter. The members of the Commission left London on the 18th June for Paris, to proceed to Berlin, St. Petersburg, and The Hague with the same object as they had in view in Britain, and it is expected that they will return to London in September. A telegram from Paris at the end of last month announced the opening of proceedings there and stated that the United States Commission asked that China and Indo-China should accept the new Philippines system, namely that the silver dollar should be fixed in value at fifty cents gold. This telegram seems to give us a clue to the terms stated to have arrived at in London, but not divulged. This would practically mean that the whole world would recognise a two-shilling silver dollar. Of course, in the case of China, this means going far beyond any scheme for securing an uniform currency, as promised in the MACKAY treaty of 1902. But a stable currency is the logical sequel of an uniform one, and all but a comparatively few would gladly see the sequence carried out. The opposition to even an uniform currency in China will doubtless be very strong. As the *London and China Express* says, we must look for "great native opposition by bankers, commodities and shroffs, and all that is comprised in the powerful Shansi guild, who are interested in matters of exchange; and 'exchange, be it remembered, affecting not only countries but that arises between provinces and province and city and city in 'China.'" Yet, as our contemporary says, this is the first step that must be taken before the question of Chinese foreign exchange can be grappled with. The Chinese Government, however, we may take to be convinced as to the desirability of uniformity in its currency, and the establishment of an Imperial Mint to put into circulation the Imperial coins is no longer merely a dream. One of the factors in the world's currency difficulty will have been removed when China has this uniform coinage.

The question, however, which the United States Commission, in conjunction with the representatives of the countries which it is

visiting, is proposing to tackle is much greater; though, as we have said, stability is the logical sequel of uniformity. We cannot here go into the difficulties involved in the establishment of a general two-shilling silver dollar in the East. The case is one which even the highest financial experts would not undertake to expose in summary fashion. No doubt on the return of the Commission to the United States we shall get the report which they make to their own Government and it cannot but be of the greatest interest to all who have anything to do with money—it must be admitted, include the majority of men. The United States Government did the world a great service when it appointed the Commission, for though other countries were prosecuting enquiries in branches of the subject they did not have the courage to consider the question as affecting the whole world. The appointment of the Commission may be considered to have hastened in no small degree the settlement which must some day come of one of the most troublesome problems in commercial and general life.

THE OPENING OF WIJU.

(Daily Press, 23rd July)

The question of the opening of Wiju, on the Korean side of the Yalu River mouth, promises to develop in importance, if the news telegraphed by REUTER's Yokohama correspondent be correct. According to him, the British representative at Seoul has now intervened and asked for the opening of the port to trade, while M. PAVLOFF, the Russian Minister, at an audience with the Emperor opposed the suggestion. Up to now the only country to ask for the opening has been Japan, through her representative, Mr. HAYASHI. Seoul despatches in some of the leading vernacular papers in Tokyo at the beginning of the present month reported that the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs, in reply to Mr. HAYASHI's application, suggested a conference of foreign representatives to consider the matter, to which the Japanese Minister replied that no such conference was necessary and that he must press his suggestion. With reference to this, the *Japan Mail* trusts that Japan will adhere resolutely to this line of policy, as it seems to our contemporary to be the only direction in which a peaceful solution of present difficulties may be sought. However, there can be no doubt that the support given by Britain to Japan's request will be welcomed in the latter country, and we do not see on what grounds Russia can honestly counsel Korea to refuse. That M. PAVLOFF should give such advice is, of course, well in keeping with his countrymen's evident desire to include the Yalu in Russia's "sphere of influence." This attitude, as the *Japan Mail* in the same article to which we allude above points out, is shown in various articles in the Russian Press, which also justify the despatch of troops thither (for it is impossible to doubt that there are Russian soldiers in some numbers on the eastern bank of the Yalu) by alleging that Japan too has sent large numbers of armed men to protect her lumber business, and that she has troops in all the ports of Korea. "That is simply untrue," says the *Mail*. "Japan, we believe, has adhered conscientiously to the terms of the 'KOMURA-WAEBER Memorandum of 1896, 'which accurately fixes the number and 'distribution of her armed force in Korea. 'No action taken by her in recent years 'can furnish a valid precedent for the 'despatch of Russian troops to the Yalu

"Valley. The most resolute of Russia's partisans must admit that she seems to be disturbing the peace of the Orient to a degree not justified by any reasonable doctrine of imperial expansion." This opinion must, we fear, be shared by every sensible man, and would doubtless be recognised as true by that lover of peace Tsar NICHOLAS II if he were allowed to see his country's affairs save through the eyes of his astute ministers, who do not at all share his sentiments.

CHINESE TURKESTAN.

(Daily Press, 21st July)

REUTER'S telegram reporting the St. Petersburg announcement that China has concluded a loan of Tls. 2,000,000 with the Russo-Chinese Bank, for which instead of interest Russia receives privileges in Chinese Turkestan, if it proves to be true, will not occasion much surprise. The question is what does "announcement" mean. The announcement might be official, semi-official, or entirely unofficial, as for instance in the columns of the independent Press. We take it that the news has been made public semi-officially in one of the journals which the Russian Government is wont to use when it does not wish to commit itself absolutely or when it desires to send up a *ballon d'essai*, to use the diplomatic phrase. It is not at all improbable that the announcement chronicled by REUTER is itself a *ballon d'essai*. We have heard of the loan, it is true, before, but only as a vague rumour through Chinese sources. Now it is repeated in definite form from St. Petersburg it is necessary to pay some attention to it. It might be thought, perhaps, a comparatively unimportant matter that Russia should ask for privileges in Chinese Turkestan, seeing that she has been asking for them, with varying success, in so many parts of the Chinese Empire, and that Chinese Turkestan is so little known that it would be hard to say what value should be assigned to concessions therein. But the importance of the matter lies in the fact that not only is Kashgaria the door to Tibet, where it is clear that an Anglo-Russian struggle for supremacy must soon rage, but also this outlying dependency of China borders for a few hundred miles on British territory, north of the Karakorum Mountains. Russia already has railway stations less than one hundred and fifty miles from the frontier of Chinese Turkestan and about two hundred and fifty of Kashgar city itself. We do not know that it would be physically possible to extend this railway into Chinese Turkestan, on account of the presence of the Thian-shan range and its southern branches. Nevertheless the existence of Russian mining and other concessions, even if not backed by a railway, would be a menace which it would be most undesirable to have to face. Britain does not want another Manchuria on her Kashmir frontier, and it is unfortunately impossible to believe that Russian concessions in Chinese Turkestan would not mean a Russianisation of the province, if the process were not checked early.

It is difficult to withhold admiration from the manner in which Russia plays the moves of her Asiatic game. Alternations between activity in Manchuria and activity in Persia are not deep enough; she must therefore strike occasionally at Mongolia, Tibet, and Chinese Turkestan. All of course is part of one policy, but the subtlety of that policy lies in its distracting nature. As far as the Chinese frontier is concerned, Russia cannot have too many

irons in the fire. China is not such a Power as to resist the application of those irons, which are intended to brand her outlying provinces as Russian. Only at two ends of the long line of frontier does a complication arise through the proximity of other Powers: and at one end, in Manchuria, Russia seems firmly and permanently established. It is practically impossible to save Mongolia unless the Chinese themselves display patriotism, honesty, and courage. Chinese Turkestan and Tibet, on the other hand, do not depend on China alone for their salvation from Russian rule. There is every reason why Tibet, especially, should in time be in very intimate connection with India, and Chinese Turkestan is, as we have said, continuous with British possessions along the Karakorum range. The penetration of Russia to the Pamirs enabled her to outflank Kashgaria, but the Chinese position would still be strong if it were not for the Chinese. The letting loose of Russian concessionaries into Chinese Turkestan would naturally destroy what little strength is left to the present suzerain Power.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 20th inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.
HIS EXCELLENCY Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).
Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, K.T. (Attorney-General).
Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).
Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).
Hon. Dr. J. M. ATKINSON (Principal Civil Medical Officer).
Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.
Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.
Hon. WEI A YUK.
Hon. R. SHEWAN.
Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.
Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minute (No. 28) and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 5) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

NEW LAW COURTS AND POST OFFICE.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART put the following questions of which he had given notice:—

1. When were the plans for the new Law Courts finally passed?
2. What is the cause of the delay in proceeding with the erection of the Courts?
3. What was the cost of the site for the new Post Office, and when paid for?
4. What were the number of designs received in the recent competition for the Post Office?
5. Can the Government give the date approximately when they will be in a position to invite tenders and proceed actively with the work of the construction of the Post Office?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, in reply to the hon. member, the plans for the new Law Courts were passed in November, 1899, the contract for the foundations was let in June, 1900, and tenders for the superstructure were called for in November, 1902. All the tenders except one were exorbitantly high, and the one I refer to came from a contractor of no standing. None of the tenders were therefore accepted, and arrangements were almost completed for the carrying out of the work by the Public Works Department itself when another tender was received. It has now been accepted,

and it is hoped that the work will soon be gone on with. With regard to the Post Office, the cost of the site was \$508,280, and was paid in March, 1902. Three designs were received in the recent competition, one of which has been accepted, and it is anticipated that tenders for the foundations will be called for in about a month.

FIRST READING.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the following Bill was read a first time:—A Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend The Foreshores and Sea Bed Ordinance, No. 21 of 1901, and to repeal sub-section (1.) of section 1 of Ordinance No. 11 of 1902.

LAND CLAIMS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 18 of 1900, entitled An Ordinance to facilitate the hearing, determination, and settlement of land claims in the New Territories, to establish a Land Court, and for other purposes.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read the first time.

The Standing Orders having been suspended, The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Bill be read the second time. He said—This Bill is introduced in order to allow the Crown, when occasion may require it, to appeal to the Supreme Court against decisions of the Land Court where those decisions affect the rights of the Crown, the proprietors of the land in the New Territories by virtue of the arrangement made between her late Majesty the Queen and the Emperor of China. It is also expressly declared to be Crown property by one of the sections of the Land Court Ordinance. At the time that Ordinance was passed and the Land Court was established, it was not thought necessary, or the necessity had not arisen, to have the power given to a claimant to appeal from a decision of the Land Court, and the result is that a most anomalous position has been created. The Bill therefore provides that the Chief Justice may at any time, upon good cause shown, grant to the Crown leave to appeal to the Full Court of the Supreme Court from any decision of the Land Court. For these reasons I move that the Bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—I rise, sir, to object to the motion that this Bill be read a second time. In the first place, we have always been accustomed to having a Bill read the first time, and then it is left to be advertised and made publicly known, so that the public themselves may consider the Bill. There is no reason, sir, why this Bill should be rushed through the Council in this way. It does not seem to me to be a very important Bill; it appears to be a very fair Bill; but why should the Attorney-General rush this thing through when it has not been advertised, not even in the *Government Gazette*? Nobody knows anything about it. We have the first reading, then the second reading, and I am so ignorant of the procedure of this Council that we shall probably have the third reading before I know. Is it not the custom to take the first reading and then have time to consider the Bill? I myself have had no time to consider it. I read it through hurriedly, but I notice it stated that the Chief Justice may at any time upon good cause shown grant to the Crown leave to appeal. If there is any doubt on the subject, I would simply ask the Council to have it postponed until next meeting.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—All I ask the Council to do is to adopt the principle, and if we adopt that principle we can read the Bill the second time and refer it to committee at the next meeting.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—It will not go through committee now?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—No.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Oh, very well.

The motion was put to the Council and the Bill was read a second time.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of One million eight hundred thousand two hundred and one Dollars and forty Cents, to defray the Charges of the Year 1902.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the

Bill was read the second time and referred to the Finance Committee.

NEW TERRITORIES RENT RECOVERY ORDINANCE

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Council go into Committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal The New Territories Rent Recovery Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

In Committee the Attorney-General proposed several amendments and new clauses and it was agreed to let the Bill stand over till next meeting in order that these might be printed and submitted.

THE NEW POST OFFICE AND THE LAW COURTS.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART—With your Excellency's permission I beg to move the adjournment of the debate in order to make some remarks on the answers to the questions standing in my name.

H.E. the GOVERNOR—Certainly.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—As these two matters are of considerable public importance, I ventured to ask these questions, and it is very gratifying to hear that some satisfactory arrangement has at last been made about the Law Courts, but it must be borne in mind that we have heard hopeful statements before and have suffered a considerable amount of disappointment. It is clear that the Law Courts site has been reclaimed for about 13 years, also the site in front of the Club, and yet we still have grass growing on both of them. I fully admit the desire of the Government in this and other matters to do their best for the public interests, but it seems to me that perhaps the cost to us has been somewhat overlooked. It does not seem clear that delays are in any way economical. It is well to bear in mind that this Colony which like many prosperous concerns may run on a debit balance can only do so at a cost of 5 per cent. per annum. The new Post Office site therefore for which we paid \$500,000 in cash costs us in interest \$25,000 a year. It is no good to go into the loss of interest in the past on the sites to the east of that, but take the two together and I am perhaps not over-stating the value when I say they are worth \$1,000,000, which is a cost in interest of \$50,000 a year or \$1,000 a week to us. From that point of view it seems to me that we are losing money, although as far as I can see we are in a very strong position. We have got the two old public offices in Queen's Road, I suppose, to sell and apply towards these buildings, and we have got the valuable site in front of the Club, so that so far as I can see we have assets which will enable us to put these two buildings up without the question of cash coming in at all. We have actually got the money, and it seems to me that we have had it for some time. I very fully admit the great troubles and difficulties of the Public Works Department, but I think it is possible, if public attention is drawn to it and the matter is opened up, that by a readjustment of duties and the calling in of private assistance we could possibly be able to do a great deal of work at a greater speed than we can at present. In answer to my question No. 5 it was not very clearly laid down who was going to build the Post Office. One hears remarks that the successful architects will do so, but it has not been definitely stated. I would like to mention a small matter in regard to the readjustment of work which I can speak of from my personal experience. I am sorry to say that I the other day had not paid my water rate. I got two letters from the Director of Public Works. I found that something was overcharged and I corresponded with him and eventually it resulted in my paying \$1.50 to the Treasury. Well, it struck me as a little bit hard on probably the hardest worked man in Hongkong, whom we expect to be an architect, an artist, an engineer and look after all things, that we should also make him do tax-collecting as well. I especially thought that, when we have got such an excellent and energetic Treasurer, who will look after the Colony's debts very well. I understand that I cannot say any more on the question of public works except referring to these two buildings but I should like to draw your attention to the fact that it seems very odd that we cannot get on with our work and yet private

people get on with theirs apparently fairly well. If we go down to the Post Office site we may see people sawing timber. If you look round you see Messrs. A. S. Watson's four-storey building approaching completion. If you go down to our sites to the eastwards you see in front of you Queen's Building which has been in use for some years and Prince's Building which is now approaching completion. You see in front of the Bank those two very nice gardens which have been in use for six years and on the opposite side we have the statue of His Royal Highness standing in a sort of wilderness. I must say I never pass that statue but I feel an inclination to apologise to His Royal Highness for not having given a better site to the statue. I hope, sir, that these remarks will be taken in as good part as they are made in. I am induced to make them with the hope and desire that if we use the proper assistance, engineering and otherwise which we have at hand, we may give the Director of Public Works immediate and efficient relief. We all admit freely that he is a most conscientious hard-working man, but it seems to me that this Colony has outgrown the limits of the Public Works Department. If that is so, it is a matter for real congratulation. If we become a bigger place we cannot expect the work to be done without a bigger apparatus than we had in the earlier days. I think that any money that may be expended in the cost of employing private labour will be amply repaid by the relief afforded to the Department and by the increased comfort which the public will enjoy. It is a noticeable fact that patriotic as we all are we have not a public building of any sort or kind except Queen's College, which is hidden away in Chinatown and nobody ever sees. It seems to me that the present moment is an opportune moment to put our shoulder to the wheel, because we have found out that all hopes of developing this Colony to its full limits of beauty and excellence have been taken away from us by the retention of the Naval Yard in our midst. I think the best thing for us to do is to develop our Colony as much as we can in that direction to the best of our ability. I do not know whether I have to move a resolution?

H.E. the GOVERNOR—No.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I simply wish to vent late the matter. There are a good many other things in which assistance might be given to the Public Works Department, but I will confine my remarks to these questions.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Sir, I beg to second the motion of my hon. friend, and I do so with great pleasure, because I agree—I had almost said with the whole of his remarks, but at any rate with most of them, although there are one or two with which I certainly do not agree. In the first place he referred to some Government official whom he seemed to think able and energetic. Now, I do not know whether he mean, my hon. friend on the right—[Director of Public Works]—or my hon. friend on the left—[Colonial Treasurer]—I am quite willing to admit that one may be able and the other energetic, but as to both being both able and energetic—I am not so sure about that. The one was another remark in the speech of the hon. member with which I cannot agree—that about the statue of His Royal Highness being like a voice in the wilderness.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I did not say "voice in the wilderness."

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—That is what I understood him to say: "a voice crying in the wilderness." If I am wrong I stand corrected. At any rate, there is no wilderness near the Bank. The motion to adjourn the debate, however, is very opportune, for it opens up an useful field for anybody who wishes to talk about things that are going on in this Colony. I was glancing through some of the evidence brought before the Commission appointed to enquire into the Public Works Department, and I was very much amused as I read it to think how little has been done to remedy matters after all the trouble we took and the many hours we spent listening to those witnesses. Mr. Chatham's evidence was to the effect that he had no time to attend to matters which seemed to me to be of the very least importance and which could have been done in two seconds. He said he wanted, in addition to himself, an Assistant Director of Public Works and

eight or nine other engineers; his time was so taken up in office work that he had no time whatever to look round the Colony and see for himself what was wanted in the way of public works. I should like to know now if he is satisfied with the assistance the Colonial Secretary has procured for him through the Agent General of the Colonies, for if he is satisfied I suppose we shall have no more complaints about such matters. As to roads, at that time the great questions were the want of water and the bad roads.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I am afraid the hon. member is getting a little discursive.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—There are included in the matter of public works which my friend raised.

HIS EXCELLENCY—No; that was about the building of the Law Courts and the Post Office.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I think he moved the adjournment of the debate to discuss public works.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Yes, especially with reference to these two matters. However, I do not think the hon. member has very much farther to go.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Well, regarding the roads, we recommended that three or four samples of roads should be made, different materials to be used. Mr. Tooker, who was subsequently made Assistant Director of Public Works, recommended that these should have wood pavements and said that the present roads had no foundations. Mr. Danby and I

HIS EXCELLENCY—I think the hon. member is going very far afield.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—It opens up a large field.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Yes, but it is coming near four o'clock.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Oh well, if the argument is one of time I am willing to sit down.

The hon. member thereupon resumed his seat.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The question of the site of the Law Courts and the site of the new Post Office and other offices that are going to be built on the site of the new Post Office is a subject which has been a very vexed one indeed, and one on which local opinion among officials differed as much as the opinion of non-officials. Sir William Robinson appointed a committee to consider this matter in 1894, and that committee reported and recommended a certain scheme. Then, unfortunately for rapidity in the carrying out of the work, there was a change in the Public Works Department. The new Director did not approve of the scheme fathered by his predecessor, as far as my memory serves me, and a fresh committee was appointed. It was not until 1896 that that second committee reported, and after some correspondence with the Secretary of State as to the design of the buildings it was finally decided to employ an eminent firm of architects at home—

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Who decided—Mr. Chamberlain or the Hongkong Government?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Aston, Webb, & Ingress Bell. All this took a good deal of time and added to the delay. As for the site of the Post Office, which was acquired last March, it must be remembered that not one department but several—some five or six—had to be accommodated in that building. It took some considerable time to find out what these departments wanted, and it also took some time to collate information so that the architects might have something to go upon. It may be we have lost something in interest through not availing ourselves of these sites earlier, but at the same time I would remind the hon. members who have spoken that the value of the property is increasing all the time.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Hear, hear.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—We might sell the present site of the Law Courts and the Post Office some years later, and I think the Senior Unofficial Member will agree with me that if we do sell it we will get a great deal more for it than if we had sold it three or four years ago.

Hon. G. STEWART—That is speculation.

H.E. the GOVERNOR—I think the hon. member in these speculations forgets that any of these public works—the Post Office, the

public waterworks, Tsim and Kowloon, and the Harbour Office—are putting aside every other work of the Public Works Department, very large. The cost of these works is over \$3,000,000, and you cannot expect them to be done in a day. I do not think, myself, as far as these plans are concerned, that there has been any delay we could have avoided. There has been a slight delay in the Law Courts for this reason that in preparing the foundation it was assumed that piling was unnecessary except on the portion recently reclaimed, but it was found that the whole of the foundations at the south end had to be piled. There was no delay once the piling had been done, beyond the inevitable delay of trying to get a tender which could be accepted in the interests of the Colony; and as the tenders were hundreds of thousands of dollars more than the Director of Public Works thought that we ought to pay for that kind of work, I think the Director of Public Works was very right and prudent in advising the Government not to accept the tenders received at that time. As regards this ground in front of the Club which the hon. member speaks of, I hope that nothing will be ever built on it. I propose that that ground shall be made a public garden as also the site near the Law Courts, and we shall have opposite the garden which at the present moment extends from the Bank to the sea. (Applause.) My idea is that the ground shall be preserved as an open space entirely and add to the beauty of the place. I suppose the hon. member withdraws his motion?

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Yes.

H.E. the GOVERNOR—The Council stands adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council—the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.) presiding.

CITY AND HILL DISTRICT WATERWORKS.
The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,342,80 in aid of the vote for "City and Hill District Waterworks" under "Public Works Extraordinary."

The vote was agreed to.

ESTIMATES FOR 1902.

The Committee then considered the Supplementary Estimates for the year 1902, and approved all of the items contained therein.

The Hon. R. SHEWAN took objection to the grouping of so many items under the heading "Miscellaneous Services" and said miscellaneous services might cover a multitude of miscellaneous items.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I don't think it would be possible to put "Miscellaneous Services" in any other form.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—I don't see any reason why not.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I am speaking to the Chairman, sir.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—So am I.

The CHAIRMAN—Order.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I don't suppose it is possible to put all the "Miscellaneous Services" in this part (holding up the paper), and I suppose that is the reason they appear in the form they take.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—I don't see any reason against it, but what we want are more details. If the hon. member will give us a reason I shall be glad to hear it.

The discussion ceased.

This was all the business.

At the Town Hall, Penang, on the 7th inst. the local Amateur Dramatic Club gave a successful performance of *Dandy Dick*. Two former Hongkong residents took prominent parts; Mr. E. F. Skerchly playing the *Dean of S. Marvell's* and Mrs. Skerchly *Hannah Topping*.

The new rule for the admittance of Chinese exhibitors at the St. Louis Exposition, issued by the U. S. Government, being found to be too harsh and calculated to increase the disabilities of Chinese entering the United States, says the *N. C. Daily News*, the Waiwupu has asked Minister Conger to remonstrate with the U. S. Government on the subject, while on the other hand, the Chinese Minister at Washington has also received instructions from the Waiwupu to do so in person.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 20th inst. in the Board room. The Hon. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President), presided, and there were also present Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Mr. A. Ramjahn, Mr. F. A. Hewett, Dr. W. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

CATTLE DISEASE.

The meeting had been called to consider a minute by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon to the effect that foot-and-mouth disease had broken out in the cattle shed belonging to the Dairy Farm Co. at Kailungwan.

It was decided to declare the shed an infected area, and to apply for authority to engage a watchman to prevent the removal of anything from the shed.

BUILDINGS AND OPEN SPACES.

Three applications were received for exemption from the provision of open spaces as required by section 173 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance, 1903. The applications were in respect of Nos. 7 and 41, Berkeley Street; No. 13, Cochrane Street; and No. 17, Wing Wa Lane.

It was decided in all these cases to recommend the applications for the approval of the Governor in Council.

This was all the business.

H.E. SIR HENRY BLAKE'S TERM OF OFFICE.

We have received for publication the following two letters:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
23rd June, 1903.

SIR.—With reference to your letter of the 30th March last addressed to the Governor's Private Secretary enclosing a petition to the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies praying for a prolongation of His Excellency's term of office in this Colony, I am directed to inform you that a reply has been received from Mr. Chamberlain in which he states that he has read with great pleasure of the appreciation with which His Excellency's administration is regarded. He adds, however, that it would be premature to consider at the present time the question of extending His Excellency's term, and is therefore not prepared at present to tender any advice to His Majesty the King on the subject.

2. I am to request you to be good enough to convey this information to your colleague on the Legislative Council and the other signatories of the Petition.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

F. H. MAY.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
15th July, 1903.

SIR.—With reference to my letter of the 23rd ultimo, I am directed to inform you that the following extract from Mr. Chamberlain's despatch was inadvertently omitted:—"I have felt it my duty to lay your despatch and petition before His Majesty who has been pleased to express his gratification at the confidence which is felt in your Government of Hongkong."—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. F. JOHNSTON,
pro. Col. Sec.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G.

The *N. C. Daily News* says of the intention of H.E. the Viceroy of Canton to use force upon the Kwangsi irreconcilables and kindness and help to those who are willing to accept the Imperial bounty, "It is believed that Viceroy Tsên's scheme will be quite successful and that he will be able to restore peace and order to the province within a couple of months. But there is a good deal of consternation in Kwangsi and Yunnan lest Viceroy Tsên should be tempted to adopt the pacificatory methods of his well-remembered father, the late Viceroy Tsên Yü-ying."

ALICE MEMORIAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE.

The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital, to be built in connection with the London Missionary Society, was performed on the 23rd inst. by Lady Blake in presence of a large assembly of spectators, European and Chinese. For the purposes of the ceremony a large matshed had been erected over the site of the new building and underneath its shade the company witnessed the function with every degree of comfort. Just before five o'clock H.E. the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., and Lady Blake arrived with Captain J. B. Arbuthnot, A.D.C., in attendance. Among others present were Lady Goodman, Hon. H. F. May, Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., Right Rev. Bishop J. C. Hoare, D.D., Rev. Archdeacon Banister, Rev. T. W. Pearce, Rev. C. H. Hickling, Rev. W. J. Southam, Rev. W. Clayton (Canton), Dr. R. MacLean Gibson (Superintendent), Dr. J. C. Thomson, Mr. J. Goosmann, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. A. Ramjahn, Mr. Li Sin Ting, Mr. S. W. Tso, Mr. Chow Sui Ki, Mr. Chiu Yu Tin, Mr. Hu Shun Chuen, Mr. Li Pak, Mr. Kwan Fong Kuk, and Mr. Wei On.

Before the proceedings began Hon. Dr. Ho Kai presented Lady Blake with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Addressing the gathering prior to the performance of the ceremony by Lady Blake, Rev. T. W. PEARCE said—Your Ladyship, your Excellency, my Lord Bishop, ladies and gentlemen—It is my privilege to open the proceedings that have brought us here to-day by telling why the London Missionary Society in Hongkong and the friends and supporters of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals ventured to make the request to which Your Ladyship graciously acceded and were able to issue the invitations to which this audience has so kindly responded. We are met on a plot of ground adjoining one hospital—the Nethersole—to lay the foundation-stone of another hospital—the Alice Memorial Maternity—a name that will connect the new institution closely with a third hospital, the Alice Memorial in the Hollywood Road. To many who are present these facts are suggestive and instructive. They are facts that speak of well sustained medical work among the poor of the Colony, of continuity, of growth and expansion in the direction of charitable healing. The interest that some take in this ceremony will perchance be quickened and enhanced if I remind them from what small beginnings these hospitals have reached their present usefulness as benevolent institutions. Nearly twenty-five years ago, in 1879, on the old Taipingshan area immediately below us and not more than a stone's throw from where we are standing, I saw the rise of a movement that has given us the Alice Memorial Hospital, the Nethersole Hospital, and is now to give us the Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital. Dr. William Young, a practitioner in this city, was wont to come early in the morning to a Christian Preaching Hall, on Taipingshan, there to dispense medicines to poor people who gathered to him from that and from other parts of what was then Chinatown. I recall the circumstances quite readily, for I was newly arrived in the Colony and Dr. Young's medical efforts on Taipingshan impressed me the more clearly and strongly. My friend of twenty-five years ago has had many successors among the medical men of this place who have given and who continue to give ungrudgingly time and skill to aid the work which he initiated. From the Dispensary in Taipingshan to the Alice Memorial Hospital, from the Alice Memorial Hospital to the Nethersole: these are clearly marked stages by which this Western medical aid to the poor and suffering has gained ground and become what it is to-day. The work has not failed to enlist much practical sympathy on the part of both Chinese and non-Chinese residents. Among the former is one whom I feel bound to mention even at the risk of incurring his displeasure—the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai. (Applause.) For sixteen years the Alice Memorial Hospital has stood for the alleviation of suffering and as an object lesson to the Chinese in Western

medical science, and I say that the man who founds such an institution deserves well of his countrymen and of this community. We call the new building the Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital, because we wish the name to indicate the continuity of our work and further to mark the circumstance that the donor of the Alice Memorial Hospital did much to start this new institution. There is another name which it is fitting to recall and as its owner is not present I have no hesitation in doing so. The name "Nethersole" was given to what many call the New Alice Hospital by its founder, Mr. H. W. Davis, who had left the Colony before the building was erected. We who have been engaged during many years in philanthropic efforts know well the liberality of the merchants in Hongkong and how readily they help such undertakings as these. There is handed down in this Mission a saying of Mr. Joseph Jardine uttered, I believe, in 1856 which is worth quoting:—"We make our money from trade with the Chinese, and we shall be glad to assist in what promises to be of benefit to the Chinese." (Applause.) That was the spirit and attitude of Mr. Davis, and he built the Nethersole Hospital when this work became too extensive to be any longer confined to the Alice Memorial building. There is now need and occasion to further extend this work and in doing so we have the liberal help of Dr. Ho Kai and of Mr. Davis. (Applause.) Ten years have passed since the second of the two hospitals was established and both institutions have had a success perhaps surpassing the hopes of their founders. That success is due to several causes—to the medical superintendents sent out by the London Missionary Society, who have done their duty steadily, patiently and efficiently during many years; to the doctors of the city who have devoted their time and skill gratuitously to the healing work; to the generous support drawn year by year from all sections of the community. These hospitals owe much to certain individual workers of whom I cannot now speak particularly. I would, however, allude with heartfelt sorrow to one who has been long associated in daily service with these institutions. Our hospitals' matron, Mrs. Stevens, for twelve years "the helper of many" in perhaps the noblest vocation that women can follow, is now lying ill in this compound—ill beyond hope of recovery. She it was who first among us formed the idea of a separate Maternity Hospital; for she had long experience in dealing with maternity cases that the Nethersole building is not well adapted to the purpose. We have had thoughts of deferring until a later date to-day's ceremony. We were, however, well advised that the stone should be laid on the day appointed, and we were assured that to carry out our original plan would be in accord with Mrs. Stevens' wishes. That we are able to build the hospital now is in great measure due to our Chinese friends who are so largely represented here to-day. They are bearing the larger share of the expense in connection with this new building. Further, at their instance and on their guarantee of salary for seven years the London Missionary Society is sending out this year a qualified lady doctor to work in the new building and to teach Chinese women that branch of Western medical science which this building is intended to represent. We hope to have this hospital complete before the arrival of the lady doctor at the end of the present year. Before my colleague, Dr. Gibson, the Hospital's Superintendent, asks your Ladyship to lay the stone, I have one thing of importance to add. This hospital work, as carried on by the London Missionary Society, seeks to embody, however superficially, a Divine idea; to continue, however feebly and inadequately, the Mission on this earth of the Divine Healer and Teacher, of whom it is said "He had compassion on the multitudes." "He healed their diseases." Our earnest hope and prayer is that these institutions may interpret to many the spirit of Christianity, may teach in practical ways the Gospel of grace and love. This is the point of view from which the London Missionary Society engages in healing work here and in many lands to which its agents are sent. From any point of view it will be seen that such institutions are among the best signs of the new time; among the best things that

the West has to bestow on the East. They show a quality of mercy that "Blesses him that gives and him that takes." And sure I am that in laying foundation-stones of such institutions we are also laying well and truly the foundations of all good understanding, good-will, and mutual helpfulness within and far beyond the bounds of this Colony. (Applause.)

Dr. GIBSON said—Your Ladyship, I have great pleasure in asking you to lay the foundation-stone of the new building. It is a great regret that Mrs. Stevens is not here to-day. During the past three years she has been getting at me to go ahead and get this building up. I have done very little myself but with the aid of the Chinese and many Europeans the work has been brought to the present issue. Knowing your Ladyship's great interest in all philanthropic works, I have great pleasure in asking you to lay the foundation-stone to-day. (Applause.)

Her Ladyship was then presented with a silver-and-blackwood trowel and mallet with which to perform the ceremony. These bore the following inscription:—"The Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital. Presented to Lady Blake by Yik Loong, contractor, at the laying of foundation-stone, Hongkong, 23rd July, 1903."

The foundation-stone was then lowered into position and the finishing touches were applied in due form.

Her LADYSHIP then said—Ladies and gentlemen,—It gives me the very greatest pleasure to come here to-day and perform this little ceremony. My enquiries not only in Hongkong but throughout China have convinced me how great is the need for hospitals such as this. I hear with great pleasure that a lady doctor is going to preside over it, and I hope that it will be a centre for sending out many lady doctors throughout China, for I know myself what a blessing they are and what a comfort it is when there is a lady doctor to consult for women and children; and if we find that in the West, how far more must it be the case in the East. The only sad point is that the lady who has worked so long and so admirably to secure funds to erect this Hospital is not able to be with us to-day. I now declare this stone well and truly laid.

The consummation of the ceremony was greeted with loud applause.

The foundation-stone, which is placed in the retaining wall above the site level on the west side of the building, bears the following inscription, in gilt letters:—"The Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital. This stone was laid by Lady Blake, July 23rd, 1903." In a cavity beneath it was placed a bottle containing the coins of Hongkong currency, copies of the three local newspapers and a parchment bearing the following inscription:—

THE ALICE MEMORIAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL, HONGKONG.

This stone was laid by Lady Blake on 23rd July, 1903, in commemoration of the erection of the Alice Memorial Maternity Hospital, built by public subscription.

H. E. Sir H. Blake, G.C.M.G., Governor of Hongkong.

Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals.

Finance Committee

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.D., C.M., C.M.G., Founder of A.M.H.; the professional staff; the Missionaries of the London Mission in Hongkong (Rev. T. W. Pearce, Senior Missionary); G. Murry Bain, Hon. [sic] E. R. Bellios, C.M.G., Hon. A. W. Brewin, D. E. Brown, D. Clark, C. Ewins, E. Fuhrmann, J. Goosmann, W. G. Humphreys, D. M. Moses, Alex. Mackenzie, Ed. Osborne, C. Palmer, A. J. Raymond, A. G. Romano, P. Sachs, J. G. Schroter, N. A. Siebe, Hon. R. Shewan, H. Skott, Hon. Gershom Stewart, J. C. Thomson, M.D., W. Malcolm Watson, W. H. Wickham, Hon. F. H. May, P. Witkowski, A. Rumjahn, Chan Chun, Chan Kit Sun, Chan Pui Po, Chau Tung Shang, Chau Dart Tung, Fong Siu Ting, Fung Wa Chun, Ho Fook, Ho Tung, Hu Choo, Lau Chu Pak, Lau Wai Chun, Lau Wan Kai, Lau Yam Chun, Leong Pui Chi, Leong Yan Po, Lo Kun Ting, Tseung Tze Kai, Un Lai Chuen, Wai Long Shan, Wei On, S. W. Tso, Chau Siu Ki.

Honorary Consulting Physician: Patrick Manson, C.M.G., M.D., LL.D.

Honorary Consulting Surgeon: James Cantlie, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S.

Medical and Surgical Staff: Robert MacLean Gibson, M.D., C.M., William Hartigan, M.D., M.K.Q.C.P.S.I., Dip. State Med., Gregory P. Jordan, M.B., C.M., M.R.C.S., Paul Krieg, M.D., Alexander Reunie, N.B., C.M., Robert Gibson, M.B., Ch.B.

Dental Surgeon: Joseph W. Noble, D.D.S.
House Surgeon: A.M.H. To Ying Far, Lic. Med Surg., Hongkong.

Nethersole Hospital: Tai Yau Wai.
Treasurer: H. C. Nicolle.

Auditor: B. E. Hanson.

Matron: Mrs. Stevens.

Medical Missionary Superintendent and Secretary: R. MacLean Gibson, M.D., C.M.

John Lomm, F.I.A., N.S.W., Architect.

Arthur P. Samy, Chief Assistant to Architect.

L. E. Flores, Overseer.

Leung Kin, Yick Leung, Contractor.

The function was brought to a close by a dedication prayer offered by the Right Rev. Bishop Hoare.

Tea was afterwards served and the visitors inspected the Nethersole Hospital adjoining.

THE NEW BUILDING.

The new building adjoins the Nethersole Hospital in Bonham Road and is estimated to cost \$13,000 of which \$12,500 is already in hand. The plans are by Mr. John Lomm, F.I.A., N.S.W., 64, Queen's Road Central, and the hospital will be built under his supervision. It will occupy a ground area of 58 ft. by 32 ft., and will be a two-storied building in the same style of architecture as the adjoining premises. On the ground floor there will be two private wards, 12 feet by 20 feet each capable of providing ample accommodation for two patients, but, according to present arrangements, the management intend placing only one bed in each. The two wards are to be divided by a corridor, leading to the two nurses' rooms, matron's office, and linen-stores. On the same floor will also be the kitchen, an ayah's room, drying and bath-rooms, etc. The main ward, on the first floor, will prove a most airy apartment, some 20 feet square. Although capable of holding eight beds it is intended to place in it only four, thus giving 230 square feet of floor space to each. A marble-tiled operating-room and lecture-room each 10 ft. 6 in by 13 ft. and night nurse's room, stores, bath-room, etc., are also to be erected on this floor, which will have a pleasant outlook across the harbour. The ward windows are to be provided with glass sashes, mosquito-net sashes and jalousies hung so that a third, two-thirds or the whole window may be opened. The space under the ground floor will be ventilated and all timbers left exposed to air where practicable. The main floors are to be of hardwood and bees-waxed, and in the private wards the heating will be by separate fireplaces where such a course can be adopted, but the general ward will be kept comfortable in the winter months by centre warming arrangements. Bells are to be provided throughout. As a protection from the afternoon sun, a balcony is to be erected on the west side of the building, which will be approached by a flight of stone steps immediately behind the Nethersole Hospital. Weather and unavoidable delays permitting, the new hospital is to be finished by 31st December this year. Dr. Sibree, a lady, with Edinburgh diplomas, is coming out from home in connection with the L.M.S. to take charge of the Hospital.

A boat loaded with 800 boxes of petroleum arrived at the mouth of the Chantaboon river from Bangkok at the beginning of the month. It was there struck by lightning and entirely burned up, the loss, which fell on the Chinese owner, being over 100 catties. Though the boat had reached Paknam, Chantaboon, it was fortunately lying well away from all buildings, so that no other damage was done.

The Singapore Opium and Spirit Farm for the next three years has been authoritatively confirmed to the present holders who bid \$470,000 a month. The Straits Government will receive \$465,000 of the amount, the odd \$5,000 going as a bonus to Johore. The Johore Farm was let for \$85,000, which, with the bonus, brings the figure to \$90,000 per month. The Malacca Farm is retained by the present farmer who bid \$31,000 a month for it.

THE NEW POST OFFICE DESIGN.

Now that the plans of the new Post Office have been definitely accepted by the Colonial Government, a description of the building will be opportune and perhaps not uninteresting. Its design may perhaps be best described as a free treatment of the English Renaissance style. The elevation is imposing, and an attempt has been made to break up the monotony incidental to the constant repetition of verandahs by slightly projecting some features. The facing is of Amoy bricks instead of the usual plaster, and the dressing, where practicable, of stone. There are five floors: basement, ground, first and second floors, with an intermediate one between the first and second. The basement is provided with general store-rooms in connection with certain of the various departments to be accommodated in the building, and the ground floor, which has an area of 42,000 square feet, is devoted to the requirements of the Post Office.

A private lane at the west side of the building, running between Connaught Road and Des Voeux Road, will be utilised for the despatching and receiving of mails, as here the work can be done without obstructing traffic or being itself obstructed; a glass covering over the lane will ensure protection from the weather. In this lane there is to be provided a separate entrance for Chinese, whose needs, further, will be looked after at a separate counter inside. The entrance for Europeans will be at the corner of Des Voeux Road and Pedder Street. Another distinct advantage in this part of the building is that the Postmaster's room will be within easy access of the working department and the public hall, and the public themselves, or those members of it desiring to exercise the privilege, will be able to gain admittance to the Postmaster's office without going through the working department.

The first floor is taken up by two departments—those of the Registrar-General and the Treasurer—and these will be entirely distinct and self-contained. Above this is an intermediate floor for the accommodation of the Post Office messengers, who will be within easy call and yet shut off completely from the rest of the building. The greater part of the second floor is taken up with the offices of the Sanitary Department, and adequate provision is also made for the Audit and Education Departments. On this floor, too, are the quarters of the chief Post Office clerks, consisting of four rooms and a bath-room completely self-contained. In every floor of the building, which will be lighted throughout with electricity, is separate lavatory accommodation for Europeans and Chinese, and the heating when necessary of those rooms to be occupied by Europeans is provided for by open fire-places. Altogether, the building will be a most commodious one, and in its finished state should atone to some extent for the weary wait that preceded its construction.

The design for the new building is by Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs.

THE VOLUNTEER PROMENADE CONCERT.

It is to be hoped that the Volunteers will not rest content with the enjoyable entertainment given on the 16th inst. and that this was but the first of a series of promenade concerts which, if kept up to the standard of the first, will not fail to draw full "houses." The Corps is lucky in the possession of a parade ground that might have been specially designed to enable the summer-weary residents of Hongkong to pass a pleasant evening; large enough to accommodate any local audience, yet not too large for acoustic properties, it makes an ideal spot for the annual open-air concerts for which Hongkong is indebted to the H.K.V.C.

Punctually at 9 o'clock H.E. Sir Henry Black, Honorary Colonel of the Corps, and Lady Blake arrived on the ground and were escorted to their seats by Major Chapman, Second in Command and Acting Commandant. The amateur orchestra under the baton of Mr. George Grimbale opened the programme with the overture from Suppe's *Dichter und Bauer*. The trio of tenors and bass, "The Mariners," was exceedingly well sung by Messrs. Mirow, C. H. Lammert (who at the last moment

kindly took the place of Mr. Bell, who was indisposed), and Wacker. Mr. Mirow later sang Schumann's "Two Grenadiers" with his usual taste and feeling. Mr. Grace was in magnificent voice in "Heroes and Gentlemen,"—a new song to Hongkong, which gained a hearty recall; and Mr. Worcester's topical verses on the water-supply and the Public Works Department were clever. Of the orchestral numbers, though all were good and the *Tannhauser* March particularly so, we most appreciated the "Légende" (Wieniawski) with Mrs. Ough as the solo violin; it is a difficult matter to get together, even in a place like Hongkong, an amateur orchestra; it is more difficult to keep them together in an ambitious selection such as this "Légende," and Mr. Grimbale is to be congratulated on the efficient accompaniment to Mrs. Ough's solo, which was not once overpowered by the large number of instruments playing against it. We shall look forward to hearing this piece again. A very pretty oboe solo by Mr. Anderson was also greatly appreciated; and the "Salut d'Amour" with which the orchestra brought the concert to a close was very well played. Other vocalists of the evening were Messrs. Whittick, Terrill, and Heckford (who was recalled), and Mr. Goldring sang Marzials' "My Love Has Come," which was enthusiastically encored, as was the duet by Messrs. C. H. Lammert and Bell.

Altogether Volunteers are to be congratulated on a distinct success, and that too at a time of year when the weather is not to be depended upon. There is too little music in Hongkong for the talent and energy there is in the Colony, and all lovers of music will look forward to further results of Thursday's gathering. We hear rumours that the Choral and Philharmonic Society is to be resuscitated and sincerely hope that it is true and that Hongkong will not have to depend solely on travelling companies during the next season for music.

The programme was as follows:—

PART I.	
Overture.....	"Poet and Peasant,"..... Suppé
ORCHESTRA.	
Tenor, Baritone)	"The Mariners,"... Randegger
and Bass Trio)	
Messrs. C. H. LAMMERT, E. MIROW,	
and J. WACKER.	
Oboe Solo.....	"Serenade,".....
Mr. W. ANDERSON.	
Tenor Solo.....	
Mr. E. MIROW.	
Violin Solo.....	"Légende,"..... Wieniawski
Mrs. ARTHUR OUGH	
Baritone Solo.....	"Heroes and Gentlemen,".....
Mr. C. H. GRACE.	
Comic Song "Tell me Mother Darling,".....	
Mr. W. G. WORCESTER.	
PART II.	
March from <i>Tannhauser</i>	Wagner
ORCHESTRA.	
Tenor Solo.....	"My Love has come,"..... Marzials
Mr. P. W. GOLDRING.	
Tenor and ("The Wanderer's")	Rubenstein
Bass Duett ("Night Song,")	
Messrs. C. H. LAMMERT and F. H. BELL.	
Baritone Solo "The King's Minstrel,"... Pinsuti	
Mr. W. J. TERRILL.	
Comic Song.....	
Mr. E. G. HECKFORD.	
Selection.....	"Salut D'Amour,"..... Elgar
ORCHESTRA.	
Bass Solo.....	"The Bugler,".....
Mr. F. WHITTICK.	
"God Save the King"	

The *N.-C. Daily News* publishes the two following telegrams:—"Tokyo, 16th July.—The Home Minister retires owing to ill health, and is succeeded by Baron Kodama, who still remains Governor-General of Formosa. Public opinion interprets recent events as evincing the Emperor's confidence in the Cabinet, which therefore brings increased prestige to the discharge of its domestic and foreign duties." "Tokyo, 17th July.—Three Cabinet Ministers—of Education, of Communications, and of Agriculture—are retiring, one for private reasons, and two in consequence of the Diet's condemnation of the Ministry's financial proposals. These portfolios have been given temporarily to Barons Kodama, Kioura, and Sone, in conjunction with their present offices. The stability of the Cabinet is in no wise affected. Baron Kodama abandons his projected trip to England."

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

There are not many parasitic plants in Hongkong. A rather showy one, *Egnetia indica*, may now be seen in flower in house No. 3 in the old garden. It is not at all uncommon in the island, growing on the roots of certain grasses. The specimen under notice is rather interesting as it is thriving on a foreign shoot, *Dichorisandra gaudichaudiana*, a native of South America, which belongs to the natural order *Commelinaceae*.

Many people no doubt will be surprised to hear that there are about sixty species of orchids natives of Hongkong. Between thirty and forty species are under cultivation in house No. 3, the majority of which are on the right hand stage as the house is entered from Garden Road. Others are in the centre house, as some species require different treatment from others. There are two or three species in flower—*Habenaria rhodochila* with orange-coloured flowers, *Cymbidium ensifolium* with very pale yellow flowers, and *Calanthe veratrifolia* (added to the flora only in the last few years) with white flowers.

In the low garden on the lawn near the lower gate in the Albany Road, may be seen a large-leaved tree bearing remarkably fine flowers, somewhat like those of a magnolia. The tree is *Dillenia indica*, a native of the tropical forests of India. The flowers are white, about six inches across, and are produced singly at the ends of the branches.

In the palm plot in the new garden a tree of the white-flowered variety of *Lagerstrœmia indica*, commonly known as the Crape flower, is now at its best.

The rainfall since the 14th July has been 5.59 inches.

With regard to the admission to the gardens by card on certain days during August, September and October (old garden on Tuesday, new garden on Fridays), we understand that the presentation of a card will not be necessary for the admission of visitors in military or naval uniform.

THE PROPOSED PEKING-KALGAN RAILWAY.

Although the Chinese promoters of the proposed railway from Peking to Kalgan, the "Great Gate" city of the Great Wall, are now endeavouring to get the necessary capital subscribed, it will be difficult to find the money in such an uncommercial district; there is, therefore, reason to doubt whether the scheme will go through unless rumour is correct in assuming that the Russian Government is behind the company. This is not all unlikely to be true. The road between Peking and Kalgan was formerly the main route for the Russian tea-trade from Tientsin. Kalgan was also an important post station for travellers to north China from Central Siberia. Except explorers, however, no one now selects this route and the Chinese Eastern Railway has carried off all the trade. As the first stage in a shorter railway route connecting the tea-producing country with the tea-consuming country, *via* Mongolia, the proposed line might become, however, very valuable. Politically it might very well serve for Russia the same end in Mongolia as the Chinese Eastern Railway has served in Manchuria. If built under Russian control it would be advanced by and by as reasonable that Mongolia must pass under Russian influence. The cities of the prairie would be Russianised just as Harbin and other Manchurian towns have been; and in the event of a disturbance they would no doubt seize the opportunity to put in an army of occupation. Southward from Shanhaikwan, Russian advance is checked by the fact that the Newchwang Railway is controlled by British capital. The Lu-Han and Cheng-te railways are under Russian influence but there is no direct Russian communication between these and the Chinese Eastern Railway. The Mongolian railway with the Kalgan-Peking extension furnishes an alternative that will be tempting to Russian ambition, if she has not already too much on her hands.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

FIRE NEAR THE GRAND PALACE, BANGKOK.

On the night of the 9th inst. Siam was on the verge of a national calamity which only providential circumstances averted. By some unaccountable means, the *Siam Observer* says, fire broke out at about half past nine o'clock in the evening in the Phra Buddha Prang, in the compound of Wat Phra Keo, and consequently, within the walls of and in very close proximity to the Grand Palace. The smoke was first observed issuing from the dome of the beautifully moulded and decorated pagoda, which surmounts the Phra Buddha Prang. Ere many minutes, the entire populace of the district was doing its utmost to cope with the outbreak. There was considerable danger of the fire reaching the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, which is separated only by a narrow pathway from the ignited building, and the first thought of those in charge was the safety of the world-renowned Emerald Buddha and others of the valuable treasures and records of ages which are housed there. These objects were fortunately accomplished in safety. In Bangkok now buglers are posted at different parts to sound the alarm in case of fire. The trumpets sounded several rousing blasts and, accompanied as they were by the firing of guns, served to bring the different fire-brigades to the spot in a remarkably short space of time. Everything having been set going, copious streams of water were poured on the burning building. It was lucky that at the time there was not much of value stored in the building, and all the movables that it was possible to save were quickly removed including the Buddhist books (Bible). The roofs of the east and west wings fell in with a great crash and sent showers of sparks up into the air. It was fortunate that scarcely a breath of air stirred to carry the sparks to the adjoining properties; otherwise damage of an irretrievable nature would have been done. The firemen got the mastery of the flames about three o'clock, after the east, west and south wings of the building had been reduced to ashes, leaving only the blackened walls and pillars standing. The dome, itself, being of solid brickwork and mortar, remained intact, but underneath it the beautiful interior was a blackened ruin.

There are two theories in currency regarding the outbreak, the *Observer* says. One is that owing to some derangement of the electric wires attached to the roof of the Wat, the dome caught fire. Another story is that, the day being the third of Buddhist Lent, offerings were duly made to the priests and that one of the candles burning beside the poems upset and caused the outbreak. But it was stated that no one was in the building when the fire occurred, that there was no offering of poems there, and that there were no lights except the electric lights. In that case the electric wires would seem to furnish the only possible clue to the cause of the outbreak.

The ruins were still smouldering at ten o'clock next morning and a tremendous concourse of people had gathered to view the scene of destruction. They had the pleasure of witnessing a remarkable procession. The Emerald Buddha had been removed to the Palace for safety, in accordance with the King's directions. The danger now being over, the sacred image was conveyed back to its place with great ceremony. The fears of the people as to the safety of the Buddha were thus removed. The procession, the central objects of which were the precious Emerald Buddha, and His Majesty, was composed of about 2,000 people, including, besides the drummers and umbrella-bearers, large contingents of soldiers and sailors, each of whom bore a banner emblematic of the faith. The Buddha itself was carried on the shoulders of several nobles attired in glittering robes and shaded by a huge golden umbrella. The Buddha having been safely replaced under its canopy with much ceremony, the Siamese pipers gave several weird blasts and the ceremony concluded amid manifestations of satisfaction on the part of those followers of Buddha who witnessed it.

The damage is roughly estimated at Tcs. 50,000.

The *Bangkok Times* gives the following history of the building.—The Phra Buddha Prang Prasato, like the temple of the Emerald Buddha itself, dates back to the time of the first King of the dynasty. There was formerly a large pond in that part of the grounds, and the first king of the dynasty had the original building erected in the centre of the pond to serve as a library. But in the ceremonies attending the completion of the building it was set on fire by the fireworks used, and burned to the ground. Then the whole pond was filled in and the building re-erected. The building now destroyed, however, was erected on the same site by the late King Phra Chom Klao (Maha Mongkut) to contain the Emerald Buddha, which His Majesty thought ought to have a special temple for itself. It was on that account that the building, though one of the Wat buildings, came to stand within its own grounds surrounded by a wall. Tradition has it that after this pagoda was finished the King had a dream in which the statue appeared to him and said it did not wish to be moved from where it was. The Emerald Buddha was accordingly left in the royal temple which one knows as Wat Phra Keo, and the other remained a very fine temple—technically a Phra-prang—with an altar and Buddhas.

PENANG IN 1902.

From Mr. Kynnerley's Administration Report on Penang it appears that during the year 1902 there was a decrease of \$10,794 under special expenses, and of \$20,126 under works and buildings, and also that the actual revenue exceeded the estimate by \$118,526 while the expenditure was \$395,312 under the estimate. In other words the settlement is more than half a million better off than it hoped to be. The actual revenue for the year was \$2,337,474 as compared with 2,221,914 in 1901, showing an increase of \$115,560, while the expenditure—exclusive of Crown Agents' payments—amounted to \$1,836,308, as against \$1,810,254 in 1901, being an increase of \$26,052. On the expenditure side there are an increase of \$59,516 under personal emoluments and exchanged compensation allowances, due to the fall in exchange, and \$39,041 under roads, streets, bridges. On the revenue side stamps exceeded the estimate by \$83,177. Personal emoluments, other charges, and pensions were largely below the estimate; and under works and buildings, special services, the estimate exceeded the actual expenditure by \$201,344. The stamp revenue was \$274,715 as against \$179,148 in 1901.

The steady growth of the shipping in Straits waters is evidenced by the fact that there was an increase in the tonnage of vessels visiting the port of 167,874 tons, while the total value of the imports in 1902 was \$79,358,895 against \$63,716,747 in 1901, an increase of nearly \$14,000,000, while imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of over one million dollars, from British colonies over five million and from foreign countries over nine million. The imports from other Settlements decreased by half a million dollars. Imports from the following places in millions of dollars were:—Perak 20½, Hongkong 12, United Kingdom 6½, Siamese Western States (including Kedah 1½) 6, Bombay 5½, Selangor 5½, Sumatra 4½, Burma 4½, Singapore 2, Madras 1½.

In the matter of health the island has been below the average, with an average death-rate of 40.73 of which average 43.09 per mille were within the Municipal limits. Small-pox, cholera, typhoid and dengue were the most prevalent diseases, but no deaths were directly due to the last named.

The Penang police are not happy. According to the Chief Police Officer, the new Criminal Procedure Code hampers instead of assisting the department. Though the inspectors are said to have worked well, it is plainly set forth that "the European contingent cannot be said to be satisfactory. It was seven sergeants short during the year. The majority are reported to be unsteady and the rest unfit for promotion. The detective department is inefficient but great difficulties exist in the way of improving it." It cannot be said that there was any decrease in crime, though the number of cases arrested

was less by 1,809. There were fewer cases of murder but more cases of housebreaking.

The number of Chinese immigrants increased from 66,411 in 1901 to 69,762 in the year under review, while the number of Indian and other immigrants fell considerably. The respective figures for the past three years are given as follows:—In 1900 there were 38,529, in 1901 the numbers fell to 28,251 and in 1902 it was only 20,242. In addition to this the emigration of Indians for South Indian ports shows an increase. In 1900 there were only 11,251, in 1902 there were 16,204, last year there were 18,183.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 22nd July.

ARREST OF FOUR OFFICIALS.

The Viceroy of the Liang Kwang, backed up as he is at Court, is evidently determined to carry out his work of reform thoroughly. The latest report in Canton is of a somewhat startling nature. At the end of last week the Treasurer—who is Acting Governor—received four despatch-boxes from Kwangai. These boxes were not only sealed with the vice-regal seal, but carefully nailed up, and it is said that despatches are only made secure in this way when they are of the utmost importance. I hear from an official that these despatches gave the Treasurer authority to arrest four officials, who are to be kept in durance until the Viceroy's return, when they will be executed. The names of these officials have not transpired, but they are probably not of high rank. It is not the first time that Shum has resorted to extreme measures. When he was Governor of Shansi he caused five officials to be beheaded.

THE WONG SHA RECLAMATION AGAIN.

Investigation is being made into the complaints against the Nam Hoi ex-magistrate, who bears a very evil reputation. A special deputy has been appointed to enquire into five of the most serious charges. One of these is the affair of the Wong Sha reclamation, of which a good deal has been heard. The Nam Hoi is said to have accepted an enormous bribe from the contractors, who in turn squeezed the villagers in the neighbourhood. The latter have sent in a petition against the magistrate, who will, rumour has it, have to pay a very heavy fine. Petitions are pouring in from parties who suffered under the late régime, and who now hope to have redress.

THE KWAI YUN MAGISTRATE.

In Kwangai, Shum's detectives are paying visits to the various districts, and receiving complaints. If they report unfavourably on an official, the Viceroy summons the latter before him, and investigates the case in person. A large number of dismissals and other punishments are reported. The most notable case among the lower ranks is that of Chun, the magistrate of Kwai Yun, who in a few months beheaded 5,000 men. Many of these are said to have been innocent, and Chun has been summoned before the Viceroy and thrown into prison. One of his victims was a detective, who had formerly been a robber chief, but had been taken into the Government service—a common practise in China. The circumstances were not enquired into by the magistrate, and this mistake is likely to cost him dear, as he will probably be executed.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 20th July.

FIGHT BETWEEN REBELS AND THE IMPERIAL TROOPS.

About three weeks ago there was a fight between the rebels and the Imperialist soldiers of the On Yung regiments. The latter were defeated, about two hundred of them being killed; the rest threw down their arms and ran. From four to five hundred soldiers returned to Wuchow, and when the commander of the regiments tried to compel them to go back to Kwangai, they refused; so they have come back to Canton, and related how they were treated by the military commanders, who did not give them their pay or sufficient food, while the rebels were well armed.

OVER ZEALOUS!

Shortly after the arrival of His Excellency Sham Chun-hsun at Wuchow, His Excellency was told that the rebels were far more numerous than the Imperialist army, so he sent a military officer by name Luk Kin to propose terms of peace to the rebel chief Li-lap, asking the latter to join the Imperial army, and take office under the government. The rebel chief consented and sent his two adjutants to see the Viceroy and talk over the terms of peace. On their way, passing the district of Kwai Ping, the district magistrate Chan King-wa had them arrested together with Luk Kin, and cut all three heads off. The Viceroy, hearing this, in great anger ordered the magistrate Chan King-wa to be put in prison to await trial and execution. Luk Kin had been a robber before, but had abandoned his predatory career and subsequently joined the Imperial army. Chan King-wa is a native of Hongshan and of the literary degree of *Kiuen*.

LI KA-CHEUK.

Li Ka-cheuk was formerly a captain in command of some braves set to protect Shamesen. During the anti-Christian riot in Shun Tak, he saved some native Christians, for which service he has been decorated with a medal by the French Government. He was appointed acting magistrate of the district of Shun Tak in the place of Wong Sung, and was subsequently transferred to Yum Chow. When he was there it was said that he permitted his soldiers to go about and rob. His Excellency the new Viceroy Sham Chun-hsun, degrading him by telegram, sent Admiral Ho Cheung-ching to arrest him. But Li armed himself with a brace of revolvers and went to defy Ho, and afterwards escaped to a steam-launch and made for Annam.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

LI KA CHEUK.

Li Ka Cheuk, the alleged instigator of the murder of Yeung Kai-wan, the reformer, in Hongkong, who was reported the other day to have committed suicide after having been dismissed from office and ordered to return to Canton to answer the various charges brought against him, is said to have absconded to Annam or somewhere else. Li Ka Cheuk gained the favour and confidence of the high authorities by his crafty acts and he was regarded by the superior officers as one of the most capable mandarins for the suppression of the rebels and the discovery and capture of notorious robbers. All the soldiers under his command were enlisted by himself and nearly all were robbers whom Li took into his service on their promising to help to effect the arrest of their brother-robbers. In reality many cases of robbery occurring in Canton were committed by his soldiers and Li accepted a part of the booty too, so that he gained his distinction by being able to discover the offenders and the booty in many robberies which were reported to the high authorities by some influential gentry. He then forced one or two of the poor soldiers, the real culprits, to admit the crime by the promise of supporting their families. It is reported that Li Ka Cheuk, when he received the order of the Viceroy, at once disbanded all the soldiers under his command and made his escape. The disbanded soldiers then commenced to commit robberies and crimes of every description. The case was reported to the Viceroy, who at once sent Admiral Ho with a good number of soldiers to effect his capture. There is another rumour in Canton to the effect that a telegram was received from Li Ka Cheuk by the officers saying that order had been restored in Yam-chau and he asked General Fung Tsz-tsoi to take command of all his soldiers. We cannot vouch for the truth of this report, but we are sure that Admiral Ho, who has been sent by the Viceroy to effect the capture of Li Ka Cheuk, has arrived at Pakhoi.

The *Straits Times* understands that Sir Frank Swettenham has accepted Towkay Loke Yew's generous offer of \$50,000, and has promised that the Towkay's wishes, for either providing better accommodation for passengers quarantined at St. John's Island, or establishing a new Pauper Hospital for the poorer classes of Chinese in Singapore, will be complied with.

PAKHOI.]

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 18th July.

ARRIVAL OF CHINESE ADMIRAL.

Admiral Ho, in command of the Kwangtung Squadron, arrived here from Canton on the morning of the 13th instant, on board the Chinese man-of-war *Fuk Po* (Commander Lew Boo), escorted by two of the Salt Commissioner's cruisers—the *Chen Tung* and the *Chap Tsai*. On board these three vessels, it is reported, were about one thousand sold ers bound for Yamchow (Chin-chow).

With the two Chinese gunboats, which have been already in port for a few days previous—the *Chen Tou* and the *An Lan*—the Chinese fleet is composed of five vessels. The French man-of-war *Comete* was in port, and to swell the list of war vessels in the harbour, the German gunboat *Luchs* also came in on the afternoon of the 13th instant. Seldom or never has this port presented such a martial aspect as on the 13th—14th inst., with seven men-of-war anchored not far from each other. Men-of-war, it may be observed, are all more or less alike in appearance when looked at from a distance, but one cannot but think differently when one goes near them in a boat, as in the present instance. The slovenly appearance of the Chinese fleet beside the two foreign vessels presents a striking contrast; the former look so many floating traps, to say the least, although I do not presume to be a judge of things naval.

THE FRENCH FETE DAY.

The 14th of July was commemorated this year with unusual éclat in this port. What with tiffin on board the *Comete*, dinner in the Consulate, and fireworks in the evening in the compound of the French school, it was quite a gala day with the French Colony. All the men-of-war in the harbour dressed ship for the occasion, and the Tricolour was prominently displayed both afloat and ashore in the different French institutions.

DEPARTURE OF THE CHINESE FLEET.

The Chinese Admiral landed on the morning of the 14th instant to make his official calls especially to the various foreign Consuls. Shortly after four o'clock in the afternoon he left with his fleet, except the *Fuk Po*, for Yamchow (Chin-chow), where he will probably make things hot for the numerous hordes of miscreants who have been for a long time inspiring awe in the peaceful traders in these waters. That the Admiral will clear the places around of pirates and robbers, for which special purpose he came, is the confident hope of the mercantile section of the community. It is not, perhaps, out of place to mention here that, since the cowardly and treacherous slaughter by the pirates of the skipper of one of the Anpow passage-boats a few months ago, these junks never sail unless three or four together.

THE BRITISH CONSULATE.

Mr. H. A. Little, British consular official here, having left for Hongkong last week, Mr. E. T. C. Werner, British Consul at Kiungchow, has come over to act during his absence.

DEPARTURE OF THE "LUCS."

The *Luchs* left this port for a cruise on the afternoon of the 16th inst.

THE VACANCY IN THE CUSTOMS.

The post of Tide Surveyor and Harbour Master, left vacant by the death of Captain H. A. Molnes, is still unfilled. Mr. R. Henkel, Examiner, has been acting in that capacity in addition to his other duties.

On the 6th ult., Chu Nai Chip, a colporteur, was selling Christian books and papers printed in Chinese, at Ellenborough Market, Singapore. One Ng Yong Siak purchased things to the value of 70 cents, and took Chu to a house in Carpenter Street to get the money. There the man was assaulted, two black marks were drawn across his face in the form of a X and his *touchang* was cut off. A warrant was obtained against Ng and he was arrested. The case was being investigated by Mr. Beatty. Mr. Peacock had to recommence the hearing. Last week, Mr. Khory, who was retained for the defence, called witnesses whose statements were too strong for the prosecution, and the defendant was discharged. The story, as given in the *Straits Times*, seems a remarkable one.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CHINESE AND THE NEW ORDINANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 17th July.

SIR.—In reference to the article published in your Chinese issue, the translation of which appeared in your columns this morning, I beg to forward you a free translation of a Chinese letter sent to the Editor of your Chinese issue in reply to his editorial remarks. I agree with him that the new Public Health and Buildings Ordinance must be modified so as to relieve the serious hardship now inflicted on my compatriots. But in justice to the Chinese members of the Legislative Council and Sanitary Board I should say they have done their best in acquainting the Chinese Community with the requirements of the Ordinance. Please insert the translation and oblige—Yours, etc.,

A CHINAMAN.

(Translation.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."

Hongkong, 16th July.

SIR.—One could not help feeling amused in reading the "appeal for mercy" published in your paper yesterday. I do not think the article emanated from you, for an editor before he writes on any subject must gather facts by making enquiries and ascertain if the information given him was correct, or he would merely make himself ridiculous. Should he speak at random, his arguments could not be taken as fair. How the new Public Health and Building Ordinance was introduced, when it was enforced, and whether the Chinese representatives had opposed it or not, were all well known for the last two years. Every paper is responsible for the news it publishes; why did you speak as if you were in a dream? The Sanitary Board has no authority to make laws, which are made by the Legislative Council. Only those laws governing the public health and sanitation are trusted to the Sanitary Board to carry out. The Ordinance was introduced two years ago. It was the outcome of a petition signed by the European community and a few Chinese, complaining of the insanitary state of the Colony, overcrowding, and prevalence of infectious diseases, and requesting the home Government to appoint men to make the necessary investigations. Consequently, a civil engineer and a doctor were sent out. The result of their investigations was the introduction of the Ordinance. When in its bill form, the Ordinance was published in all the English journals, and translated into Chinese and published by the *Universal Herald*. When it was discussed by the Sanitary Board, Mr. Lau Chu Pak strongly opposed it, and he had the Chinese Commercial Union to invite the land-owners and the Kaifong to meet and express their views thereon. But very few came to the meetings. The Chinese behaved like those scratching their legs with boots on. Finally it was decided by those who came to engage counsel to lay their views before the Government. Thereupon, Messrs. Chan Kang Yu, Ho Tai Shang and others raised more than \$2,000 to pay the expenses, and engaged Dr. Ho Kai to represent the case to the Government. Dr. Ho Kai is himself a member of the Legislative Council, and he knew what to say. The bill was more drastic than the present Ordinance. Many modifications had been made after the representation. Not only did the Chinese engage counsel, but the European community also engaged Mr. Pollock to appeal on their behalf. Not until the beginning of this year was the bill turned into law. It was then duly advertised in the *Gazette* that from May 1st the law would be enforced, commencing from the No. 5 Health District bounded on the East by Graham Street, and on the west by Shing Wong Street, and thence gradually extending to the other districts. Messrs. Fung Wa Chun and Lau Chu Pak also had the two sections concerning overcrowding and cubicles translated into Chinese and

freely-advertised through the Tang Wa Hospital. When the date for the enforcement of the law was approaching near, a confidential meeting was held by the Sanitary Board to discuss the advisability of enforcing the law. Messrs. Fung Wa Chun and Lau Chu Pak again opposed, but they were overruled by a majority. It was said that, though the notices had appeared so long in the *Gazette*, not a word as to the unpracticability of the new Ordinance had been received from the Chinese. Fappers were then engaged to survey and measure the houses and notices served out. His Excellency the Governor, seeing the sad plight the Chinese would be reduced to, instructed the President of the Sanitary Board to invite the Chinese land-owners to meet him and make suggestions. But after two meetings nothing definite could be arrived at. Those who attended the meetings had nothing to suggest, but simply said "Impracticable." Ultimately another meeting was convened at the Chinese Commercial Union and it was there decided to ask the Government to allow two cubicles on each floor, one at the rear and one in front, and also allow the space between the two cubicles to be used for sleeping purposes. A deputation led by Mr. Fung Wa Chun went to the Registrar-General's office to wait on the President of the Sanitary Board. Unexpectedly before any discussion took place, Mr. Fung rose, saying that the appointment had better be quashed, as he had just at that moment received a note from Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master on behalf of the Nam Pak, Kau Pat and the Australian and Californian firms to the effect that the decision of the Chinese Commercial Union and whatever concessions the deputation might obtain would not be binding on them, etc. "As I have received such a note," said Mr. Fung, "I do not propose to go on with the meeting." So all those who attended dispersed. No steps have been taken since. Though the Government makes laws, yet it gives the people the privilege to appeal, if any law does not suit them. But the people must be of the same mind, and be sure of what they want. It won't do for any one section to grow after what has been done. I would refrain from contradicting you, if I had not thought that your incorrect statements would likely throw cold water on those who have the welfare of the Chinese at heart.—Yours, etc.,

FAIRPLAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
18, Bank Buildings,
Hongkong, 18th July, 1903.

SIR,—The statement of "Fairplay" with reference to myself, which is quoted in your issue of this date, is wholly erroneous. The European community did not engage my services at all in connection with the above Ordinance.—Yours, etc.,

H. E. POLLOCK.

THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT AMENDMENT BILL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 2nd July.

SIR,—It is most earnestly to be hoped that the provisions of the above Bill, which was read for a first and second time at the Council Meeting on Monday, will receive most careful consideration at the hands of the Government and the public, because, if passed into law in its present shape, it seems likely, as I shall presently show, to lead to unexpected and undesirable consequences.

All the material portions of the Bill are contained in Clause 2, which runs as follows:—"The Chief Justice may at any time upon good cause shown grant to the Crown leave to appeal to the Full Court of the Supreme Court from any decision of the Land Court heretofore made or hereafter to be made, on any claim in relation to land in the New Territories, whether the Crown did or did not appear before the said Land Court on the hearing of such claim; and may, pending such appeal, stay all proceedings arising directly or indirectly out of any decision on any such claim so appealed from."

Nobody will be disposed to dispute the abstract justice of giving to the Crown a right

of appeal from the decisions of the Land Court, but when it is proposed to make such a right retrospective, I submit that the great caution ought to be exercised in order to ensure that injustice is not inflicted upon parties who possess vested rights as *bona-fide* purchasers for value or mortgagees.

Now I believe that I am correct in stating that many contracts for the sale of land in the New Territories were entered into upon the terms that the sale should be carried through and the purchase-money paid over if the claim to the land were allowed by the Land Court. Accordingly there must, I imagine, be many cases in which, in consequence of the Land Court having decided in favour of a claim, the purchase has been completed and the purchase-money has been paid over and the purchaser has either expended money upon the property in the belief that his title to it was incontestable, or else has resold the property to a third party, both parties to such sale believing, as they had the fullest right to do, that the title to the property was absolutely unimpeachable.

The present Bill, however, if passed in its present shape, will render the title of every successful claimant or his assignee insecure, by giving the Crown a retrospective right of appeal in every single case right back to the first decision of the Land Court, which was delivered over two years ago.

Moreover, the present Bill does not even stop there, for it confers upon the Crown a right of appeal which extends into the dim and distant future, inasmuch as it enacts that the Chief Justice may at any time grant the Crown leave to appeal; and I maintain that such an unrestricted right of appeal is (1) unfair, and (2) prejudicial to the interests of the Crown itself as well as to the interests of successful claimants.

In support of the proposition that such a right of appeal, unlimited as to time, is unfair, I would point out that by Section 16 of the Land Court Ordinance 1900 any claimant who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Land Court has only fourteen days within which to appeal.

In support of the proposition that such a right of appeal is prejudicial to the interests of the Crown as well as of successful claimants, I would point out that the result of allowing the Crown an unlimited time for appealing would be that no title to land in the New Territories would ever be settled and secure and nobody would be safe in investing in or expending money upon land in the New Territories, because nobody would be certain that the Crown might not in the future appeal from and upset the judgment of the Land Court.

Yet another point in which the proposed Bill is unfair is that it gives the Crown the right to appeal from any decision of the Land Court, whereas by Section 16 of the Land Court Ordinance 1900 no claimant has a right of appeal unless the Land Court certifies that the value of the claim is over \$5,000.

Yet again the Bill is unfair in that it grants leave to the Crown to appeal from any decision of the Land Court, whereas by Section 14 of the Land Court Ordinance 1900, the decision of the Land Court as to the amount of compensation would be final as against a claimant.

In conclusion I would beg leave to make the following suggestions for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor, namely:—

1. That there are such grave risks of unfairly damaging vested interests by making the Crown's proposed right of appeal retrospective that, although the Government may not be altogether satisfied with two or three past decisions of the Land Court, it is preferable, upon the balance of public convenience and public good, not to adopt such an unusual course as to give a retrospective right of appeal which would extend back for over two years and would render insecure the title to every single claim to land which has been allowed by the Land Court.

2. That, as regard appeals from future decisions of the Land Court, no longer period of time can fairly be accorded to the Crown for appealing than that which is accorded to a claimant. In connection with this point I would venture, however, to suggest that the period of fourteen days, which is mentioned in Section 16 of the Land Court Ordinance 1900, is inconveniently short, and I would submit that three

months would be a suitable period to fix upon within which either the Crown or the claimant might appeal.

3. That, agreeably to the provisions of Section 16 of the Land Court Ordinance 1900, the right of the Crown to appeal, like that of a claimant, be limited to cases in which the Land Court shall certify that the value of the claim is over \$5,000.

4. That in compensation cases under Section 14 of the Land Court Ordinance 1900, the Crown and the claimant ought to be put on an equal footing with one another as to right of appeal, and consequently that, if the words "any decision" are retained in the present Bill, the last sentence of Section 14 of the Ordinance of 1900 ought to be repealed.—Yours, etc.,

H. E. POLLOCK.

THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 24th July.

SIR,—From time to time notices appear in the local Press of cases of cruelty to animals, and we have only too good reason for believing that whatever the actual merits or demerits of each individual case brought to the notice of the public may be, a very great amount of unnecessary and easily preventable cruelty takes place in our midst. For some time past enquiries have been made privately with a view to the formation of a local society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, but progress has been impossible owing to the difficulty in finding someone with sufficient leisure to undertake the duties of secretary. That a need exists for such a society will, I think, be generally admitted—this more readily so when is remembered the good work done by the Royal Society at home. If such a society is needed in Great Britain where for so many years past public sentiment has been educated to consider the humane treatment of animals, how much more must this be the case in a community such as this, largely composed of ignorant lower-class natives who neither by association nor training are restrained from the infliction of suffering upon dumb creation?

I feel convinced from the sympathy already expressed in various quarters that a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals will meet with the required support, once a definite scheme is put before the public, and I am encouraged in the belief that our Chinese friends will also readily join in the movement from the fact that charitable persons in the interior of China found and maintain asylums for ownerless and sick animals. I now therefore venture to urge this question upon public notice through the local Press, and to ask those interested to take the matter up without delay in order that a society may be formed for the protection of our dumb friends.

While asking assistance from the public we must not ignore the good work done by the Government, which is fully alive to the necessity for putting down all forms of cruelty to animals, and the ample provision to deal with this evil provided for by the law; but as we know how greatly this good work is supplemented elsewhere by similar institutions we would wish to see in our Colony a like society. I feel sure it only needs a little energy on our part for us to do here what is being so worthily done in other parts of the Empire.—Yours, etc.,

EDBERT A. HEWETT.

VESSELS IN THE HARBOUR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 20th July.

SIR,—It is observed that in the list of vessels advertised as loading, on page 6 of your paper, the great majority of vessels whose captain's name is omitted, are British ones. Have the agents of these lines any object in view in withholding the information in question? Or is it merely another instance of the superiority of British, as compared to foreign, business methods?—Yours, etc.,

ENQUIRER.

[In response to "Enquirer" we may state that in the cases when captain's names are not given the reason is that the agents do not supply them. We cannot state why.—Ed. D.P.]

A SUGGESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 21st July.

SIR,—The home and American papers have lately been full of the dangers incidental to spitting in public conveyances and thoroughfares, and many are the schemes that are brewing to check this filthy habit. Might I, sir, suggest through the medium of your valuable columns that a fine of \$1 be imposed in this spit-ridden Colony on all persons guilty of an infringement of, let us say, Sub. Sec. I of Sec. II of the Expectoration Ordinance? The revenue of the Colony would be increased by \$200,000 per diem; all insanitary properties could be bought in by Government; roads increased to 100 feet in width; offers could be made to purchase the Naval Yard so tempting that even the naval authorities could hardly refuse; and last, but not least, our overworked and brainy Government officials could once again increase their own salaries.—Yours, etc.,

PHLEGM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 22nd July.

SIR,—It was with infinite alarm that I read "Phlegm's" letter in this morning's *Press*. Rumours have been ripe of late that some misguided individuals have had the hardihood to express their disapprobation of our indulgence in our quint pastime of elbowing people—more especially ladies—from the footpaths of Queen's Road? It is even said that we of our craft may at some period be compelled to be as civil to our employers as are our colleagues in Shanghai, though, of course, that will not be in our time. Now, *horribile dictu*, your correspondent has the audacity to suggest the alienation of our rights as citizens of Hongkong (or somewhere else) by suggesting an ordinance against spitting wherever we please.

In common with many of my friends I have been supine until this last contemplated injustice, but trust that others will make themselves heard with no uncertain voice in regard to this manifest curtailment of our common privileges.—Yours, etc.,

COOLIE.

A QUESTION OF TITLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 24th July.

SIR,—I notice that in the report of the one of your evening contemporaries which gave a description last night of the ceremony at the Alice Maternity Hospital yesterday, the name occurs on the list on parchment buried beneath the foundation-stone of the "Hon." E. R. Belilios, whereas in your account the title does not occur. I am curious to know the reason for this discrepancy. Is there any question of the title of "Hon." for ex-members of the Legislative Council enduring for life?—Yours, etc.,

ANON.

[The official copy of the parchment list given to us showed the prefix "Hon." to Mr. E. R. Belilios's name, but thinking this merely an error we omitted it. It appears, however, that it did actually occur on the list which is to go down to posterity. We do not know who is responsible for the stupid blunder, which will doubtless cause more pain and annoyance to Mr. Belilios himself than to anyone. Of course temporary members of the Legislative Council in the past do not bear the title "Honourable" for life, and we are certain that the Government does not sanction continued use of such titles. We are surprised to find the mistake perpetuated at a ceremony like that of Thursday.—ED. D.P.]

CANTON KIDNAPPING CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Canton, 22nd July.

SIR,—I shall be much obliged if you will, through the medium of your paper, correct the widespread idea that the undersigned was responsible for the report of this case which appeared in your columns last week. The account was not in any way authorised by me, nor are the facts of the matter accurately described, and I would further say that the

Shuntak magistrate did not come to this office under the circumstances mentioned.—Yours, etc.,

E. EDWARDS,
Gen. Agent for Canton and District,
New York Life Insurance Co.

CANTON LAND CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fifth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., on the 19th inst. The Hon. R. Shewan (chairman) presided, and the others present were Messrs. A. Babington, A. G. Gordon, T. H. Reid, Fung Wa Chun, and N. H. Rutherford (secretary).

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days will now with your permission be taken as read. The total rent earned during the year was \$4,609.59 as against \$4,315.70 for the previous year, but of this \$2,268.80 has not been collected owing to the action of the Kaifong in seizing our wharf and dispossessing the tenant. This matter has been placed in the hands of the British Consul and a claim will be made in due course for the loss we shall have suffered. The question of the registration of our title-deeds and of the reclamation is still pending but thanks to the energy of the Consul-General, Mr. Scott, there seems now some hope of a final settlement of these matters being come to with the Chinese authorities before very long. In the meantime we can but rest satisfied in the assurance that our interests could not be in better hands than those of Mr. Scott. That is all I have to say, but before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions that shareholders may wish to ask.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. BABINGTON, the report and accounts as presented were adopted and passed.

The next item of business was the election of directors, and on the motion of Mr. GORDON, seconded by Mr. BABINGTON, the retiring members of the board were re-elected.

The reappointment also of the auditors for another year brought the meeting to a close.

S. C. FARNHAM, BOYD & CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The third annual meeting of the shareholders in S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., was held at 14, Broadway, Shanghai, on the 18th inst. There were present Mr. John Prentice (in the chair), Messrs. H. von Rucker, J. Groundwater and D. Cranston (Directors), W. A. C. Platt (Legal Adviser), Jas. H. Osborne (Secretary), A. L. Anderson, W. H. Anderson, W. E. Bryant, W. B. Buyers, D. T. Black, H. J. Clark, E. W. Clements, A. Diercking, John Graham, A. J. Hayes, W. S. Jackson, H. E. McCann, J. R. Michael, R. Moorhead, J. G. Mackenzie, T. Pemberton, C. E. Pearson, M. S. Perry, C. H. Purcell, H. Robertson, Dr. Robinson, H. K. Struve, Stockwell, W. Thomson, J. D. Thorburn, Thos. Weir, Marcus Wolff, John Wright, and R. Weil, representing a total of 11,456 shares.

The CHAIRMAN—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, with your permission I will take them as read. During the year we have been kept fairly well employed and we consider the amount of Taels 910,973.92 transferred from working account is satisfactory, as compared with last year when the amount, after deducting Tls. \$62,500—the profit made on the issue of 6,900 shares—was Tls. 834,936.56, thus showing an increase in earnings on working account of Tls. 75,037.36 or about 9 per cent.; and this we hope will go on improving. So far as this year has gone, business has been very satisfactory and the prospects are good. We have kept all our works, docks, machinery, etc., in good condition and repair out of earnings and have not written anything off these. The amount remaining for distribution now (out of the Tls. 971,124.22 at the credit of the profit and loss account, after deducting the interim dividend paid in December) is Tls. 584,724.22 and this

with your approval we propose to appropriate as follows:—Pay a final dividend of Tls. 8 per share, Tls. 441,600; add to reserve fund Tls. 100,000; and carry to new account Tls. 43,124.22. With regard to the proposal for reduction of capital discussed at the last meeting, your directors decided that, as the feeling of the shareholders seemed to be against the scheme, they would take no further action in the matter for the present. With regard to the directorate, Mr. James Johnston has retired and we wish to record here the valuable services he rendered to the Company. Mr. Twentyman is on leave. Mr. Cranston retires, but being eligible offers himself for reelection. The auditors, Messrs. Scott and Thorburn, retire, but offer themselves for re-election. I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

Mr. A. L. ANDERSON asked what portion of the Tls. 674,733.26, set down as the value of "Sundry assets" in the balance sheet, represented the value of the steamer *München*.

The CHAIRMAN thought it inexpedient to answer this question, as the directors were considering an offer of purchase for the vessel. He would only give the figure if the meeting showed an express desire for them.

This expression was not forthcoming.

The following resolutions were put and carried *seriatim*.

Proposed by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. H. von RUCKER—"That the report and accounts of the Company made up to the 30th of April last, as printed and circulated, be adopted and approved and that the directors be authorised to pay a dividend at the rate of Taels Eight (Tls. 8) per share to the shareholders on the register at this date."

Proposed by Mr. THOS. WEIR, seconded by Mr. W. A. C. PLATT—"That Mr. David Cranston be re-elected a director of the Company."

Proposed by Mr. J. M. YOUNG, seconded by Mr. F. PEMBERTON—"That Messrs. Geo. D. Scott and J. D. Thorburn be re-elected Auditor of the Company for the present year."

Mr. A. L. ANDERSON suggested that after so prosperous a year the directors should consider the propriety of according a small bonus to the staff.

The CHAIRMAN said the directors had already done what they considered proper in that respect.

The meeting then ended.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAM-BOAT CO., LD.

The following is the report of the board of directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the Company, on the 4th August, at 12 o'clock noon:—

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the report and statement of accounts for the half-year ending 30th June last.

After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs, and all other out-goings, there remains, including \$50,704.14 brought forward from last account, the sum of \$161,991.70 at credit of profit and loss account. From this amount the directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 10 per cent. on capital or \$120,000.00 be paid to shareholders, that \$16,498.74 be written off book value of steamers, leaving a balance of \$25,552.96 to be carried forward to new account.

Increased running expenses, combined with keen opposition on the Hongkong-Macao line, account for the falling off in the steamers' net earnings during the past half-year.

The customary repairs have been effected, and the steamers have been maintained in their usual state of efficiency. The new steamer *Kinshan* successfully ran her trial-trip on the 6th April and started running on the Hongkong-Canton line on the 15th April. A daily triple service between this and Canton was inaugurated on Monday, the 11th May. A new steamer for the West River service has been contracted for with the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, whilst the steamer *Kwong Hing*, recently completed by Messrs. Kwong Hip Loong, has also been acquired by the Joint Companies, and after undergoing certain alterations, is shortly to start running on the West River.

Messrs. H. Schubart, E. R. Fuhrmann, and H. E. Tomkins have during the past half-year been invited to join the board subject to confirmation by the shareholders at this meeting. In accordance with the Articles of Association, Hon. R. Shewan and Mr. E. Goetz retire from the board by rotation, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The retiring auditors Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts also offer themselves for re-election.

C. W. DICKSON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 20th July, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

30th June, 1903.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
Value of steamers <i>Powan, Hontun, Heung-shan, Lungshan, Hsiao of Kaitan and Kinshan and Jrd of Nanning and Sainam</i>		836,438.74	
Value of lighters <i>Sun Lee and Wo Lee</i> ..		9,500.00	
Value of wharves, hulks, and moorings		86,200.00	
Value of properties at Canton, Wuchow and Kongkun		117,261.74	
Value of coal, and spare gear		20,057.47	
Value of furniture		750.00	
Value of shares in public companies ..		645,755.00	
Value of Chinese bonds		1,034.48	
Loans on mortgage		719,500.00	
Cash with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		30,163.32	
Interest accrued to date		1,755.09	
Premium on Marine Policies		13,479.59	
Sundry debtors		6,706.31	
		<u>\$2,488,594.74</u>	

30th June, 1903.	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Amount of capital, 80,000 shares of \$15 each fully paid up		1,200,000.00	
Amount at credit of depreciation and insurance fund		633,000.00	
Amount at credit of equalisation of dividend fund		300,000.00	
Amount at credit of investment and fluctuation account		162,229.13	
Unclaimed dividends		6,388.50	
Sundry creditors		24,985.41	
Amount at credit of profit and loss account		161,991.70	
		<u>\$2,488,594.74</u>	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

30th June, 1903.	Dr.	\$	c.
To amount paid for repairs to steamers ..		41,054.29	
To directors' and auditors' fees		4,750.00	
To balance to be appropriated, viz:—			
Dividend at 10 per cent. on			
\$1,200,000		120,000.00	
To be written off book value			
of steamers		16,438.74	
To be carried to new account		25,552.96	
		<u>161,991.70</u>	
		<u>\$207,795.99</u>	

31st Dec., 1902.	Cr.	\$	c.
By amount brought forward from last account		50,704.14	
3rd June, 1903.			
By net earnings of steamers		103,495.08	
By interest on investments		53,474.77	
By transfer fees		122.00	
		<u>\$207,795.99</u>	

DEPRECIATION AND INSURANCE FUND.

31st Dec., 1902.	Dr.	\$	c.
To balance		633,000.00	
31st Dec., 1902.			
By amount at credit		3,000.00	
25th Feb., 1903.			
By amount appropriated from profit and loss for half year ending 31st December, 1902		25,000.00	
		<u>\$633,000.00</u>	

EQUALISATION OF DIVIDEND FUND.

30th June, 1903.	Dr.	\$	c.
To balance		300,000.00	
31st Dec., 1902.			
By amount at credit		300,000.00	

The ex-Sultan Abdullah of Perak has been accorded permission by the Secretary of State to return to Perak from which he was exiled some 23 years ago in connection with the assassination of Mr. J. W. Birch, the first British Resident.

Hongkong theatre-goers will hear with much regret the news brought by American mail papers that Miss Janet Waldorf, who with her company delighted audiences in the City Hall theatre only eight months ago, died of pneumonia in New York on the 10th ult.

UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY, LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the seventh ordinary annual meeting to be held at the offices of Messrs. Dodwell & Co., Ltd., Queen's Buildings, on the 5th August at 3 o'clock:—

The General Managers have now the pleasure to lay before the shareholders the accompanying statement of accounts for the year ended 31st May, 1903:—

ACCOUNTS.

The balance at the credit of profit and loss account, after writing off \$1,168.95 for depreciation and including \$489.03 brought forward from last year, is \$19,999.44, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To place to reserve fund	\$6,000.00
To pay a dividend of 15 per cent. on ordinary shares	5,940.00
To General Managers' remuneration	2,000.00
To pay a further dividend of 7½ per cent. on ordinary shares	2,970.00
To pay \$29.70 per share on 100 founders' shares	2,970.00
To carry forward to new account	119.44
	<u>\$19,999.44</u>

AUDITOR.

The accounts now presented have been audited by Mr. W. H. Potts, who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

DODWELL & Co., LD.,

General Managers.

Hongkong 15th July, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET, 31st May, 1903.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
To capital 9,900 ordinary shares			
of \$10, of which \$4 per share			
paid		39,600.00	
100 founders' shares of \$10			
fully paid		1,000.00	
		<u>40,600.00</u>	
To sundry creditors		20,955.69	
To unclaimed dividends		160.00	
To reserve fund		8,000.00	
To profit and loss account balance		19,999.44	
		<u>\$89,715.13</u>	

ASSETS		\$	c.
By value of launch <i>Gladiator</i> as			
per last account		4,000.00	
By less written off		1,000.00	
		<u>3,000.00</u>	
By value of furniture and fittings			
as per last account		150.00	
By since expended		218.95	
		<u>368.95</u>	
By less written off		168.95	
		<u>200.00</u>	
By value of material on hand		34,303.06	
By unexpired portion of insurance policies ..		292.24	
By sundry debtors		18,169.31	
By cash in bank		33,679.36	
By cash in hands of general managers		71.16	
		<u>\$-9,715.13</u>	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT,

31st May, 1903.		\$	c.
To trade expenses, salaries, commissions,			
launch working, rent, advertising		45,625.35	
To auditor's fee		50.00	
To depreciation for year ending 31st May ..		1,768.95	
To balance carried to new account		19,999.41	
		<u>\$66,843.74</u>	
By balance from last account		489.03	
By profit on sales		66,073.10	
By transfer fees		22.00	
By interest		259.61	
		<u>\$66,843.74</u>	

Another instance of the new Canton Viceroy's strictness is reported. One of the Canton charitable institutions which has been appealing for funds to provide cheap rice for the famine-stricken in Kwangsi seems to have been asked by H.E. Sham to produce its account-books. No figures of the money received or the amount of rice distributed were forthcoming, and the Viceroy has therefore sent up a commissioner to make investigations in the districts receiving relief from this society. It is said in Canton that some of the directors of the institution feel very uncomfortable about the matter.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 17th July.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND CAPTAIN E. BRETHAM, S.S. "TARTAR" (ASSESSOR).

KWOK PO v. S.S. "RUBI."

Judgment was given in this action of damages arising out of a collision between the *Sun Kwong Hop* fishing-junk, No. H. 2141 and the s.s. *Rubi* in the Lema Channel near Putoy Island on 9th February, 1903. Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker of Messrs. Deacon & Hastings, solicitors), was for the defendants.

His Lordship said—This is an action brought on behalf of the owners of the fishing junk, *Sun Kwong Hop*, a junk of some 60 tons, against the China and Manila steamship *Rubi*, for damages for a collision which occurred about 3.30 or a little later, on the morning of the 9th February, 1903, between Putoy and the Lema Islands. The collision resulted in the loss of the junk and the death, by drowning, of several of the persons on board. At the time of the occurrence the *Rubi* was on her way to Hongkong from Manila, and the junk, which had come from Macao, and had reached Chung Chin Island, about seven o'clock the previous evening, was proceeding leisurely on a south-east course from Putoy Island towards the fishing-grounds off Lema Island, intending to fish about daylight. It seems that at the time of the collision, the captain of the *Rubi* was on the lower bridge deck using his glasses and looking out for junks. The second officer (now the first officer) was on the upper bridge, and he swore he was keeping a careful lookout, and standing near the man at the wheel, and there was a look-out man, a Chinese, Wong Kow, who has been for 15 months on the *Rubi*, stationed in the bows. All these three witnesses state that they first saw the junk's light when the junk was a trifle on the starboard bow and only the steamer's length, viz., about 300 feet, distant. She was then crossing the bow at an oblique angle towards the S. E. In the circumstances the captain did all that was possible, reversed the engines and put the helm hard aport, orders which were very promptly carried out. Unfortunately, however, the junk did not get clear, but struck the steamer on the port bow, 10 or 12 feet from the *Rubi*'s stem, and the after-part of the junk got knocked away, with the result that she shortly after became a total loss. The steamer people did all they could after the collision. It was very dark and eventually the survivors on the junk were picked up by some fishermen. Two important questions arise:—(1) Did the collision occur within the territorial waters of the Colony, or outside them? (2) Had the junk a light of such a character as to be visible at a reasonable distance, it being admitted that she did not carry the regulation side-lights? As regards the question where the collision occurred it seems that at nine minutes past three a.m. off North-East Head (Tanka Island) the captain fixed his position at a point, the three bearings of which were Waglan N. 30 deg. W. and North-East Head S. 50 deg. W. and at that point he changed his direction to a course W. by N. Such a course would not take him within 1½ miles of Putoy Island. The collision occurred while he was pursuing that course, and at, or shortly after, 3.30 a.m. what tide there was in the steamer's favour and the fresh east or north-east wind would have accelerated the *Rubi*'s speed, which was steaming roughly 10 knots. A calculation based on these data would place the point of collision at about 1½ miles to the southward of Putoy. It is true that, in the official log, the entry relating to the supposed locality of the collision makes the bearing of Waglan N. E. ½ E. My assessor and myself are satisfied that the entry ought to have read N. E. ½ N., and we accept the explanation offered as to how this mistake arose, corroborated as it is by the position

placed in the chart a few minutes after the collision by the master. My assessor is therefore of opinion that the *Rubi* at the time of the collision was at least 1 1/2 miles south of Putoi and I certainly concur in that view. The southern boundary of the waters of the Colony appears to be 22° 9' deg. I therefore decide that this collision occurred outside the territorial waters of the Colony. The case would, therefore, appear to be within the terms of the Junks (Collision) Ordinance, 1902, the third section of which is as follows:— "Where in any action brought in any Court in the Colony in respect of a collision occurring between sunset and sunrise, outside the territorial waters of this Colony, between a junk and a ship, it is proved to such Court that either such junk or such ship has failed in fact to comply with all or any of the rules concerning lights contained in the International Collision Regulations, the junk or the ship which has so failed to comply with such rules or rule shall be deemed to be in fault unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Court that the circumstances of the case made non-compliance with such rules or rule necessary." This section is enacted in pursuance of the policy of the preamble which reads as follows:— "Whereas it is expedient that a junk which does not comply with the International Collision Regulations concerning lights, and thereby occasions a collision outside the waters of this Colony with a vessel bound to comply with such regulations, should not in the event of litigation in the Courts of this Colony in respect of such collision, be in a more advantageous position than such vessel. But even if the Ordinance had not been passed it is clear that a junk must carry such a light as to be visible at a reasonable distance, otherwise on a dark night a collision with a steamer might occur without any negligence on the part of those navigating such steam vessel. In the present case the plaintiffs say they had such a light and that the negligence consists in those on board the steamer not observing it till it was close by and collision inevitable. After carefully considering the evidence given on both sides, I am quite clear that both the captain and second officer were carefully looking out. They had already seen other craft and passed them safely, and long before they had slightly, temporarily, altered the ship's course to avoid a junk. They were, therefore, specially on the look-out for junks, the lights of some of which they could see a mile or two off. It appears to me, therefore, incredible that the look-out man, the captain, and the second officer should have, none of them, seen the light of the junk until it was only a ship's length off and then all have seen it practically together, if it had been plainly visible all the time as a bright white light ought to have been. The decision I have already given as to the locality of the collision disposes of the contention of the plaintiff's counsel that the captain and second officer had their attention attracted at the time by the unexpectedly close proximity of Putoi Island. Judgement must, therefore, be for the defendants with costs.

Saturday, 18th July.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ROBBERY IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

Ng Shek was charged with having, on 31st May at Tongfong, received two stolen revolvers, one cartridge, four rolls of cloth, and certain other property belonging to one Tsun Tso Fuk.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. E. M. Hazeland (foreman), F. P. de V. Soares, B. K. Mehta, C. Warren, E. M. Ezekiel, F. R. Spence, and E. H. Summers.

The Attorney-General (Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley) conducted the prosecution, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor. The prisoner, he said, appeared to be a man who had been away for some time in Borneo and had lately returned to the Colony. Complainant, a

retired market-gardener, came back some time ago from Australia and settled in the New Territory. On the date in question as he was entering his house he was attacked by several masked men, knocked down and rendered unconscious. When he recovered he found that his house had been ransacked and the articles mentioned taken away. Acting on information received, the police on the following day went to the prisoner's house and found various of the stolen articles in his house and on his person.

After hearing evidence the jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty as libelled.

His Lordship passed sentence of two years imprisonment with hard labour.

The Court adjourned.

Monday, 20th July.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER.

Lo Hau, Lo Kak, and Lo Ngau, 70 years of age (father of the two first named), were charged with killing one Tse Shing, a sub-marine miner attached to the Royal Artillery.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. C. Warren, J. T. Douglas, P. H. Holyoak, H. Eyre, E. M. Hazeland, G. A. Richards and A. Hyndman.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), conducted the prosecution on behalf of the Attorney-General. He stated that on 4th June the three prisoners met the deceased in the street; and the first prisoner, who was the keeper of an opium-divan, asked him for some money which he owed. This led to a quarrel and an assault upon the deceased by the first prisoner. The other two prisoners joined in and apparently considerable violence was used. Deceased was knocked down, kicked, and struck with billets of wood. A crowd assembled, and when the three prisoners saw the man was injured they ran away. The injured man went into an opium-divan and shortly afterwards the police were called in. He was then taken to hospital, where Dr. Bell found him to be suffering from a ruptured spleen. From information received the prisoners were arrested. Two days later the injured man succumbed after having made a dying deposition and identified the three prisoners.

Evidence was called.

When asked if he had any statement to make, Lo Hau pleaded that when he asked the deceased man for the money he owed, he assaulted him and they both fell to the ground. He did not strike the deceased, and the latter might have injured himself in falling. Lo Ngau, the old man, stated that he did not take part in the fight: he was too old.

The jury found the first and third prisoners—Lo Hau and Lo Ngau—guilty as libelled, and the second, Lo Kak, not guilty.

The second prisoner was discharged.

His Lordship, in sentencing the first prisoner to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour, said he took into consideration the fact that the deceased man had an enlarged spleen and that it did not take so much violence to kill him as it would to kill an ordinarily healthy man. The old man his Lordship sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour, remarking that no doubt when he saw his son fighting with another man he felt he ought to go to his assistance.

As the prisoners were being led from the dock, two Chinese who had been sitting in the body of the Court, came forward to the railing and shouted out in Chinese, "That is very unfair; passing a light sentence when a man's life has been taken away."

His Lordship had the men brought before him and asked them who they were.

The men replied that they were submarine miners.

Mr. Sharp said he was informed that they were brothers of the deceased.

His Lordship told them the best thing they could do would be to walk out of the Court, for

if they stayed and were rude to the Court they would be sent to prison. He would take into account that their feelings were very strong in the matter. They had better get out of the Court as quickly as they could.

The men left the Court with expedition.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

Li Tung, a powerful-looking Chinese, was charged with having on 13th June assaulted a ricksha-coolie named Li Yuk Tin on the Shauiwan Road, wounded him with a knife, and robbed him of \$1.

He pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Sharp in his opening statement said the prisoner committed the robbery and assault in company with another man who unfortunately was not in custody. On the night in question, after midnight, the ricksha-coolie was returning with his empty vehicle from Quarry Bay Sugar Refinery, to which he had just conveyed an European passenger who paid him \$1. When between the Sugar Works and Metropole Hotel two men jumped out from behind a tree and set upon him. Prisoner was one of them. It was very dark and the ricksha-puller did not see his assailants until they were right upon him. Prisoner seized him by the queue and held him while the other man took the dollar from his purse. The coolie shouted for help whereupon the prisoner struck at him with a knife and inflicted a severe cut on his face and one on his chest. The coolie shouted again and an Indian constable who was on patrol heard the shouts and ran to the spot. The robbers made off, with the Indian in pursuit. Then Constable F. L. Clyde, who was patrolling the road on his bicycle, arrived on the scene and joined in the pursuit of the prisoner who was running along the road. Assisted by the lights placed along the road in connection with the tramway works Constable Clyde overtook the robber and as he passed him on the bicycle seized him by the queue. Prisoner twisted himself free and began to run back along the road when he was captured by the Indian constable. Then the police officers took the man back to where the injured coolie was and he identified the prisoner as one of his assailants. The other had not been found.

Evidence was taken.

The jury found the prisoner guilty as libelled. His Lordship passed sentence of three years' imprisonment with hard labour.

UTTERING A FORGED RECEIPT.

John Robinson, lately an employee of Messrs. Punchard & Lowther, was charged with having on 2nd July uttered a forged receipt for \$98.10 purporting to be signed by Ching Yuk on behalf of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, with intent to defraud, he knowing the same to be a forgery.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—F. P. de V. Soares, T. Johnstone, A. Horsell, B. H. Mehta, H. M. Bain, E. T. Bunje, and D. Benjamin.

Mr. Sharp in opening the case said the charge against the prisoner was that on the hearing of an action in the Summary Court on the 2nd July brought by the proprietor of the Cosmopolitan Hotel against the prisoner in respect of board and lodging in the hotel the prisoner produced a forged receipt for the greater part of the amount claimed. It would be proved that the prisoner was in financial difficulties and that the money did not really reach the hotel people. Prisoner was formerly employed at the Naval Yard and stayed at this hotel where he paid \$40 a month for lodging and part of his board. On 5th April prisoner was dismissed from Punchard & Lowther's and had lived at the hotel up till his arrest. On the 1st of May he was presented with a bill for \$98.10, being for the previous month and arrears. This he was frequently asked to pay but did not. On the 1st of the following month a bill of the increased figure of \$138.10 was rendered. Prisoner was frequently asked to pay this but asked for time. Then the proprietor issued a writ for the whole amount. When the case came on prisoner said he had paid the bill for \$98.10 and produced the receipt in question. That was the first time anybody had heard anything about him having paid the bill.

After hearing evidence, the jury by a majority of six to one found the prisoner guilty.

His Lordship passed sentence of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Court adjourned.

Tuesday, 27th July

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CHARGE AGAINST INSPECTOR MCEWEN.

Robert Gardener McEwen was empanelled on a charge of having on 15th July, 1902, being then Inspector of Markets, unlawfully accepted a bribe of \$10 from one Fung Yung with a view to influence his conduct in the performance of his duties; on 14th September a bribe of \$17 from Leung Sin; on 34th December bribes of \$120 from Chan Wong and \$30 from Lai Kun; and on 25th December \$100 from Ip Cheong and two others.

He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors).

The following special jury was empanelled:—Messrs. H. Pinckney, A. O. D. Gourdin, A. G. Raymond, W. H. Potts, D. W. Craddock, F. H. Asjane, and E. W. Rutter.

The Attorney-General Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley (instructed by Mr. F. R. L. Bowley Crown Solicitor) conducted the prosecution. In his opening statement, the Attorney-General said that the evidence would show that defendant received from certain stall-holders in the markets certain presents in the shape of money and goods and if the jury found that he received these presents, he thought they could only come to the conclusion that they were given to him and accepted by him for the illegal purpose charged—namely to bribe him to refrain from the enforcement of the laws and regulations of the markets. The case was one of great gravity and seriousness both from the public point of view and from the point of view of the Inspector himself; therefore he was sure the jury would without any request on his part bring to bear on the facts presented to them the most careful consideration. He did not desire in any way to prejudice the minds of the jury against the defendant, but he felt it to be his duty to recall to them the fact that it was absolutely necessary in the public interests that officers in the public service should be pure and that they should discharge their duties without fear, favour or affection. If they came to the conclusion that as a fact the presents were given to the Inspector and felt that there was only one conclusion from that, namely the conclusion that the presents were received with the object of improperly influencing the Inspector, it would be their duty as guardians of public morality and the public interests generally to find a verdict against him. On the other hand, before they took the serious step of finding a man in his position guilty of the serious offence of bribery they must be quite convinced in their own minds that he did accept the bribes as charged against him. Before defendant entered the service he was a policeman. He left the police force and was employed as Inspector of Markets. Everybody, of course, who accepted an office of public trust must be taken to be aware of the impropriety of receiving a bribe; still more so must a man who had previously been in the police force. If they came to the conclusion that these presents were received they need not hesitate to feel sure that defendant must have known it was wrong to receive them. His previous history, training, and experience must have taught him that as Inspector of Markets he could not accept any presents from any persons against whom he had to enforce the laws and regulations of the markets. The markets appeared to be doubly controlled. The Registrar-General had the letting of the stalls; the Sanitary Board were responsible for the wholesomeness of the food and the cleanliness of the markets. The inspectors were employed to act under the direction of the Sanitary Board. Defendant's duties were to see to the wholesomeness of the food and that the place in which it was sold was kept in a sanitary condition. In the course of his duties the Inspector had to prosecute if the rules and regulations were not observed. The business of the markets was carried on by various trade guilds—each trade in each market having its

guild. Evidence would be that on 14th July defendant had threatened to prosecute a poultry-shop for blocking the thoroughfare. Next day the poultry guild sent a salesman to defendant's house and he gave defendant \$10. The second charge was that he received \$17 from the same guild. The third charge was that on 24th December he received two separate sums amounting to \$150 from two masters of a shop. Shortly before Christmas the guild called a meeting and in consequence of that meeting the two masters drew \$150 guild money, went to defendant's house and gave him the money, at the same time presenting him with some capons and other birds as Christmas presents. Now a person could not receive presents from persons against whom he had to enforce certain restrictions without there being an intention on the part of the giver to influence him in their favour; and the Inspector could not have been unaware of the intention with which these were given. About Christmas time the poultry guild of the Central Market also held a meeting and consequently one Ip Cheong went to the Inspector and asked him what he would like for a Christmas present. Ip Cheong would tell the Court that defendant said—"Give me the money and I will buy something for myself." Ip Cheong reported this at another meeting of the guild and was authorised to pay the Inspector \$100. The money was put in an envelope addressed to defendant and on the afternoon of Christmas Day was given to him in his house by Ip Cheong in company with two other men.

Evidence was then called.

A. Gibson, veterinary surgeon, who has sanitary control of the markets, was the first witness. He deposed that defendant took charge of the markets on 1st May, 1902. His salary was \$236 a month. His duties were to see the markets kept clean and the bye laws carried out. The European overseer and scavenging coolies were under his charge. He had also to see to the enforcement of the laws with regard to food adulteration and to prosecute if witness decided that a prosecution should take place. Rule 421 of the General Orders prohibited any public servant from accepting presents.

Cross-examined by Mr. Slade—These charges were first brought about the 17th June. Witness took up the position of veterinary surgeon towards the end of April last year. His duties brought him into close touch with defendant who was under his immediate orders. He supervised defendant's work. Defendant carried out his duties well. Since he had been in charge of the markets the bye-laws of the markets had been rigorously enforced. So far as he had seen there had been no favour shown. It was a fair description of the defendant to call him a zealous and energetic officer; that was so far as he knew. Of his own knowledge he had noticed a difference in the state of the markets during the time defendant was Inspector; the markets were kept cleaner and the stall-holders complied better with the bye-laws. In the case of trivial offences on the part of stall-holders it was defendant's custom to warn them. Defendant had verbally reported to him this year cases of people in the markets offering him bribes. About the beginning of June he made an official report to the effect that an envelope containing \$100 along with some other presents had been left at his house, while he was out, by some poultry-dealers from the market. This report was forwarded to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board, and he understood, was investigated by the police. There were no results so far as he knew of these enquiries. In the end of May, in order to deal with plague in the markets, defendant was instructed to seize any dying fowls and send them up for examination. A number—first of all from the Western Market—was picked out by him and a large proportion was found to be infected, in consequence of which the poultry section was disinfected about 27th May. After that it was still found that fowls were dying and other measures were taken to eradicate the disease. The poultry-dealers were asked to move down to a match shed opposite the Harbour Office and their stalls were disinfected. The pens in use in the Western Market with the exception of one or two new ones were burned. Defendant was actively engaged in this work. The mov-

ing-out and burning of the pens took place early in June, about the 4th. In the beginning of that month plague was also discovered among fowls in the Central Market. In each case where a plague-infected fowl was found the stall and the new pens were disinfected and the old pens were burned. This work was still going on immediately before these charges were made. As a result of the charges defendant was arrested on the 17th June and had been suspended from his duties as Inspector of Markets.

Mr. Slade—And so was got rid of for the time being?

The Attorney-General objected to such a remark. When a public official was charged with a serious offence like this it was only right that he should be suspended from his duties pending trial.

Mr. Slade—I was only asking the question.

His Lordship said that the remark should not have been made.

Examination resumed—It was the Inspector's duty to keep a diary. (Diary produced and identified.) It appeared to witness to be quite in order. On the morning of the 15th July, according to the book, he began at the Sai-yingpoon Market at 7.30, went from there to the Western and Central and then came to see witness at 9 o'clock. After 9 he went over to the Kowloon cattle-depot. If the times in the book were correct defendant could not have gone back to his house in Chater Street before going to Kowloon. Shortly before Christmas defendant took charge of the slaughter-house in addition to his other duties. On the 24th, according to the diary he was on duty in the slaughter-house at 11 a.m.; in the afternoon his last entry of slaughter-house work was 5 p.m.; at 2 o'clock he was issuing firewood to the butchers. He was not allowed to leave the slaughter-house while on duty. If a man did his work he would be kept there all the time.

Re-examined—Defendant's house was about five minutes' walk from the slaughter-house. He had not seen defendant taking his meals in the slaughter-house. Defendant kept a ricksha with two coolies usually; he did not remember having seen him with three but had seen him with only one coolie. From his house to Sai-yingpoon would be about 15 minutes' ricksha drive. He was aware that the defendant's conduct was being investigated before any charge was brought against him, and that anonymous petitions against him had been received at the Registrar-General's department.

Mr. Slade said this was new matter entirely, and he objected to its introduction. He had been instructed that anonymous communications had positively flowed into the Registrar-General's department charging the defendant with every crime from murder down.

The Attorney-General said his learned friend's statement reminded him of the old doggerel—

"The man who smokes and reads the Times,
And goes to Christmas pantomimes
Is capable of any crimes."

When the re-examination was finished, Mr. Slade asked leave to cross-examine.

His Lordship—If you put the question through me. They must come from me.

Mr. Slade—With your Lordship's permission I shall ask the questions myself.

His Lordship refused to allow this and Mr. Slade sat down.

His Lordship then put the question himself. "As regards these complaints," he asked the witness, "are you aware whether or not they form the subject-matter of the present charges?"

Witness—I understand they do not form the subject-matter of the present charges.

His Lordship—Were they matters relating to the taking of money?

Witness—I understand they were.

Fung Yung, a salesman in the San Fu poultry shop, stall No. 4, Western Market, was called and deposed that he gave the defendant \$10 on 15th July last to prevent prosecution for obstruction.

Cross-examined—Witness was a business man, and he could not remember exactly what kind of note-book the defendant used. He was not aware that his shop had got into trouble with the Registrar-General's department for allowing fish to be sold in front of the shop. He was not one of two men who had to take back on 2nd June last a bribe of \$150 which had been

Wednesday, 22nd July.

given to the defendant, and regarding which the latter had made a report. Witness had heard nothing of the affair, and did not know of enquiries into it made by the police.

The Court adjourned shortly after one o'clock. On the Court resuming after tiffin.

The Attorney-General, after consultation with counsel for the defence, stated that they concurred in respect of this matter of the statement by the defendant who was offered a bribe on the 2nd June and returned it to the persons offering it and he must say it seemed to him on the evidence in possession that two men did go to the Inspector's house on the 1st or 2nd June and left a sum of money with his servants to be given to him. At that time defendant was absent from home. When he returned to the house he sent for the men next day and returned them the money, and he reported the incident and it was put into the hands of the police. The police made investigations and got certain information which required corroboration of implication. The only person who could speak to that was the Inspector himself, because the house servants who in the ordinary course would have been called were not available owing to their having left the service of the defendant in the meantime. The police were still making endeavours to get hold of the witnesses who would enable them to go on with the charge of offering a bribe. When the time came he would submit some facts to the jury to the effect that as a fact at the time the defendant refused to receive this offered bribe and reported the attempted bribery, he was aware that charges had been made against him of receiving bribes, and he would suggest that the inference to be drawn might be that defendant thought it was too dangerous a thing to take a further bribe.

Leung San, accountant of the San Fu poultry shop in the Western Market, which kept the accounts of the poultry guild in July last, said he made a payment during that month to Fung Yung of \$10, that was on 14th July. He entered it in the book.

Leung Sin, accountant of the Leung Hop poultry-shop, said that that shop kept the guild's accounts in September last. During that month he made a payment of \$17 to the defendant; that was on the 14th. He was authorised by the guild to pay the Inspector that money. He entered the payment in the book before the money was actually handed over. He paid over the money in defendant's house between 7 and 8 p.m. Addressing the Inspector, he said "I have come to make you a present on behalf of the guild." Defendant asked "How much?" and added "Can do." The notes were enclosed in a Chinese envelope. There was no one else present when he paid over this money.

Chan Wong deposed that he handed over \$120 on behalf of the poultry guild to defendant on 24th December. Lai Kan went with him and gave defendant \$30—altogether \$150.

Cross-examined—There was a bell at the prisoner's house, but he did not ring it; he walked straight in at the door, which was open. The defendant was alone in the house.

Lai Kan, master of the San Fu poultry-shop, corroborated the evidence of the last witness, and said he gave the defendant \$30 on 24th December last, the day on which Chan Wong gave him \$120.

Cross-examined—The defendant had taken away witness's licence, and the latter went to the Registrar-General and got it back. He rang the bell on the ground floor when he went to the defendant's house, and the defendant came down and opened the door.

Here the witness corrected himself and said he had not pulled the bell, and that the defendant did not descend to the ground floor and open the door.

Ip Cheong was the first witness called to support the charges of bribery from the Central Market. He said he was one of the masters of the Yam Fat Loong poultry-shop, Central Market, and that subsequent to a guild meeting held on 19th December last the defendant said to him, in reply to a question as to what he should like for Christmas—"Give me the money and I will buy something myself." On Christmas Day the defendant was given \$100 and four boxes of cigars. He was a troublesome man, and they gave him the presents in order to induce him to cease from annoying.

The Court at this point adjourned.

The trial was resumed of Robert Gardner McEwen.

Ip Cheong was again put into the box. Cross-examined by Mr. Slade, he said the defendant had bought poultry from him for a number of years past. Witness had been to defendant's house three times—the third time in connection with the guild business. He had not been there nearly every month to collect his bills. He had not been on the roof of the house where the defendant kept his poultry and pigeons; he did not know that defendant kept live poultry and pigeons. On Christmas Day last year witness with two others went to defendant's house about half-past four o'clock. They went in rickshas and drove up to the door of the house. The street door was open. Witness did not ring the door-bell. The two others were behind him and he did not know whether or not they rung the bell. They all went upstairs together, he going first. He thought Lam King Shang followed next to him and Wu Kam came last. Witness on going upstairs pushed open the door and entered the sitting-room, calling out at the same time for the Inspector. Two Europeans were in the room. One of them spoke to them, and they walked with him through the room on to the verandah and thence to the verandah of the next house. From there he could not see the two Europeans in the sitting-room. The Inspector came down and told the three of them to wait. None of them spoke to the defendant afterwards.

Re-examined by the Attorney-General—When the Inspector said, "Alan-nan" and went away into the next house with the European in whose company he came down from the roof, witness waited until he came back and then said, "Here are some cigars presented to you by the guild," and Lam King Shang handed him the envelope containing the \$100.

By the Court—He did speak to defendant that afternoon.

Wu Kam of the Tai Cheong poultry-shop in the Central Market, gave corroborative evidence. He deposed that Ip Cheong handed defendant the four boxes of cigars, and Lam King Shang gave him the envelope containing the \$100. He saw the \$100 put into the envelope. It was the money of the guild.

Cross-examined—In going downstairs when leaving the house, witness went first, Lam King Shang second, and Ip Cheong third.

Lam King Shang was next called and sworn.

The Attorney-General said that if his Lordship referred to the depositions he would find that the previous witness was not cross-examined before the Magistrate.

Mr. Slade objected to the depositions being referred to unless they were going to be put in.

The Attorney-General said that in that case he would re-call the witness and ask whether he was or was not cross-examined before the Magistrate.

Wu Kam was re-called.

His Lordship remarked that he thought that question could be asked. If the depositions were referred to they must be put in.

Mr. Slade argued that therefore as the Attorney-General had referred to the depositions and had stated their contents he had a right to demand that they be put in. The Attorney-General had said, "If your Lordship will refer to the depositions you will find that so-and-so is in them."

His Lordship—I do not propose to refer to the depositions to see whether you are right or wrong.

Mr. Slade—I demand, as my friend has made reference to the contents of these depositions, that they be put in. He said, "If you will refer to the depositions you will find in them that this man was not cross-examined."

The Attorney-General—I could not say that you would find in the depositions a thing that is not in them.

Mr. Slade—It is stated in the depositions, and my friend knows it and referred to it, that there were no questions asked by me of the witness.

His Lordship—You can ask the witness whether or not he was cross-examined before the Magistrate.

The Attorney-General put the question to Wu Kam, who replied, "No."

Mr. Slade asked for a ruling on the question of law, as to whether when the contents of a

document were referred to, the other side had not a right to demand that it should be put in.

The Attorney-General said he had proposed to prove a fact and had suggested that his friend should concur in what he knew to be a fact, and by way of explaining to his Lordship what he desired to do he said if his Lordship referred to the depositions he would find that this man had not been cross-examined.

His Lordship remarked that the only evidence he had noted was that the witness said so himself. He did not propose to refer to the deposition.

Mr. Slade asked his Lordship to make a note of his application for the depositions to be put in and its refusal.

The Attorney-General stated that as the depositions might be of some advantage to the defendant and as he was utterly unbiassed in the matter, he intended at the conclusion of the case to put the depositions in, but not on this point.

Mr. Slade—That is entirely satisfactory.

His Lordship—I is a very fair thing. I have no objection to the depositions going in.

Lam King Shang, accountant of the Kwong Wing Yuen poultry-shop, Central Market, corroborated the evidence given by the two previous witnesses. He stated that he handed the envelope containing the \$100 to the Inspector. Ip Cheong handed him the four boxes of cigars; these were of the brand "Christina Perfecto," and there were twenty-five in each box. The money was given to the Inspector because he had been constantly giving the poultry-dealers trouble.

The Attorney-General said that in view of the evidence given he had an application to make to his Lordship. In the determination of the issues between the Crown and the defendant he wished to make an amendment to add to the indictment that the defendant received, as well as money, four boxes of cigars. Under the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (No. 13 of 1899), section 55, sub-section 1, if there appeared to be a variance between the truth and the charge of the indictment or any count, the Court might amend the indictment. The defence could not be prejudiced by the addition that the defendant received by way of a bribe those cigars because all through the depositions, which his Lordship was entitled to read under the Ordinance, each witness after speaking of the present of \$100 on Christmas Day added that four boxes of cigars were also presented to him at the same time. Defendant therefore had known from the first that one of the allegations against him was that he received a present of four boxes of cigars as well as the \$100. In framing the indictment the matter of the cigars was left unmentioned and the charge was only of receiving money. He had intended to use the receipt of the cigars in the way of corroborative statement by the witnesses that they had given him the \$100, but he could see from the attitude of his learned friend that technical objections might be made to the jury considering this receipt of the cigars unless the fact appeared as a charge in the indictment. In the interests of the determination of the issues involved he would ask his Lordship to exercise the power given him under the Ordinance to allow an amendment in the indictment to the effect that defendant received four boxes of cigars as well as the \$100 on Christmas Day by way of a bribe. Supposing the amendment was not made now there would be nothing to prevent the Crown from subsequently charging the defendant with having received four boxes of cigars, and the whole proceedings, whatever the result might be in this case, would be gone all over again. It was in order to prevent unnecessary trials or repetition of trials that the Legislature in England and here—following the law of the mother country—had given the Court power to make necessary amendments such as he asked his Lordship to make now.

Mr. Slade opposed this absolutely unprecedented, and he ventured to say, improper application, made at the last moment, at the very close of the evidence. This amendment which he asked to be made was not an amendment of a variance.

His Lordship said he quite agreed with the counsel for the defence. He could not admit the amendment. The amendments contemplated by section 55 were not such as that now proposed. But supposing a man was charged

with stealing a pair of trousers and it turned out after the evidence was given that it was not a pair of trousers but a coat, or something like that—a slight variance—that it was the kind of thing meant. But the Attorney-General's application now was to add another count after the evidence had been given. The thing could be done because this count would be added on the evidence that had been given, but at the same time he could not help thinking in this case that the Crown knew all the facts and that if they wished to include the boxes of cigars in the indictment they could have done so. He thought that probably the reason they did not do so was that it was cutting it rather fine if it came to boxes of cigars because a man might be given a box of cigars by a friend and it was a very small matter and he did not think anybody would care to take it into a criminal court. As the thing was left out he thought it was too late to put it in now. He took it that the application was made because there had been so much talk about these cigars.

The Attorney-General said he wished to make it all one transaction.

His Lordship—I do not think you ought to press it, Mr. Attorney-General.

The Attorney-General—Very well, my Lord. He went on to say that he proposed to call the persons in the shop in which these cigars were bought in order to prove the purchase to the Court; his friend apparently held that that was not relevant evidence.

Mr. Slade said he was not going to dispute the cigars. They might have bought 10 or 100 cigars or the whole shop so far as he cared.

The cigar-shop people were not called.

Chief Detective-Inspector Hanson gave evidence with regard to the plan of the defendant's house, etc.

Cross-examined—Defendant left the Hong-kong police with discharge marks "very good." In the Naval Yard police he served about five years.

Re-examined—He was given notice to leave the Naval Yard police.

The Attorney-General stated that that was the case for the Crown.

Mr. Slade said that defendant had a statement to make and it would be desirable that it should be made before he addressed the Court. Before calling for that statement, however, he would put in a book showing the number of prosecutions instituted by the defendant as Inspector of Markets and the amount of fines recovered from 20th April, 1902, to 3rd June, 1903.

From this book it appeared that the last Chinese witness, Lam King Shang, had been fined \$5 on 3rd June for not having a sign-board up on his stall.

Lam King Shang was recalled and admitted the accuracy of this.

The defendant then read the following statement—I came to this Colony in December, 1890, and joined the police on \$50 a month. Now, after various changes in my services under Government, I am drawing over \$230 a month. I was appointed on the permanent staff of the Sanitary Department on the 1st November, 1901, and I took up the duties of Inspector of Markets on May 1st, 1902. I immediately made myself thoroughly acquainted with the various bye-laws relating to markets and have since my appointment rigorously enforced them whenever I found a breach of those bye-laws. I invariably cautioned the offending parties at least twice, and in the event of that having no effect I took out summonses, which were approved and signed by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon prior to issue. This does not apply to such sections of the bye-laws as those relating to hawking without licenses, cruelty to animals, etc., where the offenders were arrested on the spot. The fines inflicted for breaches of the market bye-laws during my period of office have been very heavy, much more so than in any preceding similar period. With regard to accepting bribes I can truthfully testify that I have never done so in my life. The case brought against the master of the Hop Wo Chan shop, but not proceeded with by the Government, shows that I do not accept bribes. This man was arrested the same night as I was and charged with offering me \$200 on behalf of the poultry guild of the Central Market about twelve months ago. He admitted having offered me this money, but said that I refused to take it, and said he had it still. He told the police where to find the

money, and they sent to his shop and found it. I have been offered presents on other occasions and have always refused them, and have so reported to the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, especially that on Monday, June 1, 1903, during my absence, a sum of money was handed to my cook-boy. On ascertaining the fact, and at the earliest opportunity, I made him return the same \$150. This he did in the presence of myself and my wife's maid, and this I duly reported in writing to the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon at 9 a.m. on the 2nd June. No action has been taken in this case so far as I know. About the end of May this year I got verbal instructions from the Hon. Dr. Atkinson, also from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, to keep a good look-out for any dead or sick poultry, etc., in the Western and Central Markets, and in terms of my instructions I sent a considerable number of these to the Government Mortuary for examination. In consequence of the majority of these being found plague-infected and acting under the orders of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, I destroyed all poultry-pens, fittings, etc., in every poultry-shop in the Western Market, making a careful valuation of all articles so destroyed. The shops were all disinfected under my supervision, and the poultry-dealers had to remove to a temporary makeshift opposite the Harbour Master's Office. Dead poultry, etc., were also found in several stalls in the poultry section, Central Market, and such stalls and stall-holders were similarly dealt with. This in conjunction with the strict and vigilant manner in which the bye-laws were enforced by me has made me unpopular with the stall-holders in every market. With reference to the charges made against me the entries in my occurrence-book for the 15th July show that by 7.30 a.m. I was in the Saiyingpoon Market. I therefore must have left my house that morning about 7.15 a.m. From the Saiyingpoon Market I went to the Western and then to the Central, which would occupy the whole of my time till I met the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon at his office at 9 a.m. From his office I went over to Kowloon. The entries in my occurrence-book are made up by me every night. The witness Fung Yung stated in the Police Court that I made an entry in my notebook on the 14th July about his causing an obstruction. I produce my notebook in which no such entry appears. With regard to the second charge it is absolutely untrue. It being Sunday I was probably at home at the time the witness alleges he came. This witness Leung Sin is one of the men who came to my house and got the \$150 back from my cook-boy on the morning of the 2nd June. With regard to the third charge, the witness alleges that he came to my house at 4 p.m. and gave me the money. At that time, as my occurrence-book shows, I was on duty at the Kennedytown slaughterhouse and did not leave there until after 5 p.m. When I have been on duty in the slaughterhouse I have never left until everything was secured, all the butchers cleared out and the work finished for the day. With regard to the fourth and fifth charges, alleging bribes given on Christmas afternoon, I can say positively that I was not at home that afternoon. I went out early after tiffin, but where I went I cannot now remember. I never stay at home on holidays, but go out bicycling, shooting, or taking exercise in some form. On Christmas afternoon I am almost certain I went out on my bicycle, and I certainly visited the Central Market on my way home at 6.30 p.m. as my occurrence-book shows. I know I got home late for dinner that night, but more I cannot remember; my wife who was at home all day Christmas Day tells me that she remembers several Chinese called on Christmas Day and asked for the Inspector, and that she sent them away telling them that I was not at home. I have dealt with the witness Ip Cheong for several years past, buying poultry from him. He has frequently been to my house to collect bills or bring me things I have bought. He knows the arrangements of the house well, and that I keep poultry and pigeons on the roof, for he has been up there himself. On Christmas Day last I am sure I had no guests to tiffin. I would certainly remember it if I had; I tiffed quietly at home and went out shortly afterwards and did not return until dinner time. My character ever since I came to the Colony, and before, has always been good,

as may be seen from the letters and certificates I have received from the heads of departments and others, which I produce. I am a married man with a wife and children to look after and a good pension to look forward to, and I would hardly be such a fool as to risk my whole career by taking bribes, as these witnesses against me allege. My wife is a good manager, and with the help of what I received from my lodgers I have enough to keep myself and my family comfortably and put by a little every month.

The defendant also read and put in certificates of character and service, from among others, Commodore Powell, of the Naval Yard; Mr. May, Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary; and Mr. Hastings, Police Magistrate.

Mr. Slade remarked that when the master of the Hop Wo Chan shop was charged at the Police Court with offering Inspector McEwen a bribe he admitted it, but said that the Inspector refused to take it. It had been given him by his friends the poultry-dealers of the Central Market to give to the Inspector. When the bribe was refused he took it back to the poultry-dealers and asked them to take it back but they said, "No; it is down in the books; give it to him presently." He had not given it to the Inspector, and it was then in his safe marked "Money to be given to Inspector McEwen." He told the police where it was to be found and Inspector Hanson went down and got the money. He should have asked Inspector Hanson about this matter when he was in the box and he now asked that he be recalled.

Chief Inspector Hanson, re-called, stated that he accompanied the master of the Hop Wo Chan shop to his shop after his statement at the Police Court and found the \$200 in the safe as stated; the envelope in which it was contained was inscribed to the effect that the money was to be given to defendant.

Re-examined by the Attorney-General—It was Mr. Clementi, Assistant Registrar-General, he believed, who gave the police the information that this man had offered a bribe to defendant. It was not Inspector McEwen who gave the information.

Mr. Slade, without calling any witnesses, proceeded to address the jury. On their decision, he said, rested the character and future prospects—practically the whole life—of the defendant. They must not however allow any feeling of pity to influence their verdict. The question for them to consider was—Had the Crown succeeded in proving the charges against the defendant? The defence had not made any attempt to prove conspiracy or interested motives on the part of the witnesses or that they were perjuring themselves. The question came down to this—Was the evidence of those witnesses so free from suspicion, so straightforward, that the jury could find the defendant guilty of the charges brought against him? One of the most useful customs in determining the quality of evidence was to consider the motive of those who gave evidence, and if there was even a reasonable possibility that all the witnesses testifying against a man were actuated by some common motive, then their evidence was greatly weakened. With reference to the witnesses in the present case, the first thing that would strike the jury was that they were everyone of them poultryers, even although poultryers were not the only dealers under the charge of the defendant as Inspector of Markets, and in every case that money was alleged to have been given it was not the money of these individuals, but the money of the poultry-guild. Speaking as to the motive actuating the bringing of these charges against the prisoner, Mr. Slade said a strong one was to be found in the part his orders compelled him to play in connection with the recent outbreak of plague amongst fowls in the markets. His duties ran counter to the wishes of the poultry-guild, and it was to their interests to have him removed. The guild was a powerful one, and the jury might well suspect that the witnesses they had sent to the Court dare not give independent evidence in the box. As to that evidence, two out of five charges were disproved by entries in the defendant's official ledger which showed that he was elsewhere at the time money was alleged to have been given him at his house. As for the other charges,

he would leave their refutation to the straightforward character of the accused and to the improbable nature of the evidence. A carefully concocted story had been prepared, for was it likely that after a lapse of six months three men could remember such a trivial detail as the order in which they had walked up and down stairs on a particular day? Mr. Slade, referred to the failure of the Crown to call any of the three Europeans who were said to be in the defendant's house on Christmas Day last when Ip Cheong and his two friends paid their alleged visit with a bribe of \$150. If evidence of the kind that had been brought against the defendant was to be believed by the jury, then the position of no public servant in the Colony—the Governor, the Chief Justice, anybody—would be safe. If the defendant was convicted no inspector of markets would be found to discharge the duties of his office fearlessly. In view of all the circumstances, Mr. Slade submitted in concluding a speech which occupied an hour and ten minutes in delivery, reasonable doubt must exist in the minds of the jury as to the trustworthiness of the witnesses, and with that doubt existing it was their duty to discharge the prisoner at the bar.

The Attorney-General in his address to the jury said that bribery if it was an easy charge to bring was also a difficult charge to prove. This was not a case to be lightly passed over. The learned counsel for the defence had stated that the prosecution was a prosecution by the poultry-guilds, who wanted him out of the way. That was not the case. The prosecution was the result of information laid by the Registrar-General. Further he would point out that according to the prosecution-book produced by the defence there were only nine prosecutions, four of which were dismissed, against Central Market poultry-dealers during 1902; and for a whole year from June of last year till June of this year there were no prosecutions at all. During 1902 there was only one poultry-stall prosecution in the Western Market. It was a significant fact also that that prosecution was on 11th September, 1902, and a few days afterwards a meeting of the guild was held and a series of bribes was offered him. On the 24th December, defendant stated, the occurrence-book showed that he was on duty at the slaughter-house when the two Chinamen said they called at his house between 4 and 5 o'clock and gave him two bribes amounting to \$150. Well, his house was only five minutes' walk from the slaughter-house and it was not improbable that he should be in his house when they called. With regard to the bribe of \$100 alleged to have been received by the defendant in his house on Christmas Day the story told by the three witnesses was straightforward and he did not think the jury could fail to accept it as trustworthy.

His Lordship in summing up, said it was right and fair that they should start with this, that they were dealing with the case *prima facie* of a man of respectability and good character, who would not have been Inspector of Markets if they had not thought he was a trustworthy, good, and competent man. It was always unpleasant to deal with a number of Chinese where you had to keep them in order, because rightly or wrongly, people were apt to think, among a certain class of Chinese, that an official thought he should get a good many perquisites in addition to his sometimes small salary. They were not there, however, to discuss the morality or immorality of bribery, because it was laid down in a special Ordinance what the meaning of bribery was. It was a thousand pities that, when the manager of the Hop Wo Chau shop went to him about a year ago and offered him a bribe of \$200, defendant did not seize hold of him and give him into custody red-handed with the \$200 in his possession. Remarking that the case had been exceptionally ably conducted on behalf both of the Crown and of the defence, his Lordship went on to review the evidence. In conclusion he said there was very little law about the case. Commonsense would tell them that if the Inspector of Markets received \$150 on the 24th December and \$100 on the following day from the poultry-dealers of the markets, it was pretty clear that these sums were offered him with a view to influence his conduct as Inspector. What the jury should give their greatest care

to was the question—Did he receive the money or did he not? Were the seven witnesses who swore they paid those bribes perjuring themselves or speaking the truth?

The jury retired at 5.53 to consider their verdict.

The jury returned to the Court at 6.23

The Foreman intimated that the jury unanimously found the defendant not guilty on all the counts.

The announcement of the verdict in defendant's favour was received by the crowded Court with a great outburst of applause which was immediately silenced by the officers of the Court.

His Lordship—That exhibition of feeling is extremely improper. I trust we shall not have a court of justice disgraced in that way by exhibitions of feeling. This is not a theatre but a court of justice.

The Attorney-General—It must surely be possible, my Lord, for somebody to identify those persons who committed this gross contempt.

The Registrar (Mr. A. Seth)—Usher, can you point out anybody who was clapping?

The Usher—They were nearly all clapping, my Lord.

The Attorney-General—I think it is a great pity that somebody cannot be punished.

His Lordship—Let the prisoner be discharged.

As Inspector McEwen left the Court he was surrounded by a crowd of friends eager to shake hands with him and congratulate him on the verdict.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 23rd July.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

Chau Cham was charged with having on 20th June last on the Shaanwan Road assaulted and robbed a ricksha-coolie named Li Shin of \$1.20. He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled: Messrs. F. R. Spence, A. W. Lamperski, F. J. R. Schwarzkopf, E. H. Summers, F. P. de V. Soares, F. B. Shepherd, and P. H. Holyoak.

Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, who conducted the prosecution on behalf of the Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), said in opening the case that on the night of the day in question, about ten o'clock, complainant was returning from the Sugar Refinery at Quarry Bay, to which he had conveyed a passenger, back to Wanchai and was passing the village of Teatshimui when a man jumped out from the side of the road, struck him with a bamboo pole, knocked him down, cut off his purse with a knife, and ran off. The coolie pursued the thief but was unable to catch him. Subsequently the coolie gave information to the police, enquiries were made and from facts discovered by a Chinese constable prisoner was arrested on 22nd June. He was put in a row of ten men, and complainant identified him as his assailant. The purse contained \$1.20 and the ricksha-licence.

After hearing evidence, the jury found the charge proven by a majority of six to one.

His Lordship asked what was known about the prisoner?

Inspector W. Robertson said he had known the prisoner for the last two or three years; he had not been convicted before but he made his living by illegal traffic in opium.

His Lordship passed sentence of three years' imprisonment and ordered that the prisoner get 20 strokes of the birch within the first week of his imprisonment.

CHARGE OF RECEIVING.

Mui Kwai was charged with having on 2nd July received a silver watch and chain and \$12 in money which had been stolen from Yau Luk, prisoner well knowing the same to have been stolen. He pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney-General Sir Henry S. Berkeley stated that the evidence would show that the stolen goods were found on the person of the prisoner when arrested. He was wearing the watch and chain, and if he could not explain

how he came to be wearing another man's watch and chain he would have to be convicted.

Yau Luk, the complainant, said he had the watch and chain along with \$130 in banknotes in a box in his house at 21, Lower Macao Row. On the morning of the 1st July the box and its contents were missing. On making a search he found the box, empty, on the roof of the house. He afterwards saw his watch in possession of the police and identified it.

Other evidence showed that when, on information received, prisoner was arrested and was found in possession of stolen property, he said the robbery was committed by another man who gave him the watch and \$12 in Macao.

The jury found the prisoner guilty as libelled. His Lordship passed sentence of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Prisoner had been twice previously convicted—once for unlawful possession and once for attempting to commit a felony.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

THEFTS FROM THE HONGKONG CLUB.

Veejeer, an Indian night watchman at the Hongkong Club, was charged with having on the 6th and 14th July stolen from the Club a nickel watch and gold chain, the property of Mr. Carl Thiel, a diamond ring belonging to Mr. C. H. Blason, and two gold studs and two gold sleeve-links belonging to Mr. G. A. Finke. He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. A. Hyndman, E. T. Bunje (foreman), J. A. Stopani, J. H. B. Botsch, H. Eyre, A. Cross, and J. D. Osmund.

The Attorney-General stated that on 6th July Mr. Thiel missed a nickel watch and gold chain from his bedroom. At half-past nine o'clock that morning it would be proved, the prisoner pawned the chain under a false name. On 14th inst. prisoner was arrested with the pawn-ticket in his possession. On the 14th Mr. Blason missed from his room a diamond ring and Mr. Finke missed two gold studs and two gold sleeve-links. It would be proved that the prisoner was on duty near their rooms until half-past five o'clock that morning. Later the same morning the prisoner pawned the ring, the studs and the links, also under a false name. The defence put forward before the Magistrate was that a servant boy had sold the watch and chain to the prisoner and that he had pawned the studs and ring for the same boy from whom he got them. The weakness of the defence would no doubt occur to the jury, for what the prisoner did in the way of pawning was done under a false name.

Evidence having been given for the Crown, Prisoner called two witnesses who however did not offer any evidence of a rebutting nature. Prisoner then made a statement to the effect that he got the stolen jewelry from Mr. Blason's boy and pawned it.

The jury found the prisoner guilty of receiving stolen goods.

A previous conviction of the prisoner for felony was proved.

His Lordship passed sentence of three years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Court adjourned.

Friday, 24th July.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

"TO STIR UP THE P.W.D."

Chau Chung Hop and others sued Chan Fuk for damages for breach of contract in connection with the pulling down of a wall. Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. E. J. Grist for the defendant.

The case had been adjourned some time at the beginning of last month to allow the plaintiffs to pull down the wall. Nothing having been done up to the present time the case was put into yesterday's list, and the reasons that the plaintiffs gave for not having proceeded with the work was that they had been unable to obtain from the Public Works Department the necessary permission to pull down the wall, so that they had not been able to ascertain the amount of damages they had suffered by reason of the alleged breach of contract.

His Lordship said the plaintiffs must stir up the Public Works Department for the necessary permit. This was the last adjournment he would allow.

Mr. Goldring stated that the necessary permission had now been obtained from the Public Works Department and the work was in hand. The case was further adjourned for a fortnight.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AND THE KWANGSI FAMINE.

We have received from the Colonial Secretary's Office the following letters for publication:—

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 22nd July.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit the enclosed copy of a despatch which has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies with regard to the famine in Kwangsi and the measures taken in Hongkong for its relief.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

Downing Street,

London, 12th June.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 245 of the 8th ultimo, reporting the steps which have been taken in Hongkong to relieve the distress caused by the prevalence of famine in Kwangsi and enclosing copies of reports by Mr. C. Clementi on the condition of the people in the districts which he has visited, and a telegram from the Governor of the Province thanking you on behalf of the inhabitants.

2. I desire to express my appreciation of your action and of the generous assistance afforded by the community of Hongkong to the people of the Kwangsi province.—I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

HONGKONG'S NAVAL DOCKYARD.

In the new issue of Brassey's *Naval Annual* we find the following remarks upon Hongkong's Dockyard:—

It is unnecessary to insist on the value of Hongkong as a naval base and as the centre of British trade in the China Seas. The shipping entered and cleared in 1900 aggregated over 14,000,000 tons. Including junks, the total amounted in 1901 to 19,325,000 tons. The scheme for the extension of Hongkong Dockyard has gradually grown, through successive Naval Works Acts, from a moderate proposal, involving the expenditure of £340,000, to one on which it is estimated that £1,275,000 will be spent. The present yard will be increased from 4½ to 39 acres and a tidal basin of 9½ acres in extent will be constructed, having a depth of 30 ft. at low water springs, and with a total length of wharfage of 2,900 ft. The dry dock in course of construction will be 550 ft. in length on blocks, 95 ft. wide at entrance, 30 ft. over the sill at low water springs. Extensive workshops will be erected on land formed by reclamation.

There has been considerable difference of opinion as to whether it was better to extend the dockyard in its present position, or in the neighbourhood of the Kowloon Docks, which are situated on the mainland opposite the island. In view of the fact that the Russians are concentrating a large proportion of their naval strength in Chinese waters it is obviously necessary that we should maintain at the China Station a squadron which, in conjunction with the Japanese Navy, would be of sufficient strength to deal with the Russian Fleet in case of hostilities. A dockyard at Hongkong is obviously a necessity, and together with the private resources it should be capable of dealing with the ordinary repairs of the squadron in time of peace. But, in view of the recently concluded alliance with Japan, it should have been possible to have made an arrangement with the Japanese by which their dockyards would have been available for His Majesty's ships in time of war. In addition, it should be remembered that Messrs. Butterfield & Swire are building private docks at Hongkong.

KWANGSI FAMINE FUND.

The Hon. Treasurers acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions to the Kwangsi Famine Fund:—

Amount previously acknowledged	\$41,092.08
Interest on account	4.90
Tata & Co.	150
C. Mc I. Messer	25
H. H. Judge Wise	25
J. F. Boulton	25
Francisco A. Gomes	50
Augusto Jose Gomes	50
V. Scheffer	5
H. Siobler	10
W. Radbruch	5
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steam-boat Co.	100
N. Mody & Co.	125
P. F. Talati	125
Talati & Co.	125
Abdolally, Ebrahim & Co.	125
Franjee Hormusjee & Co.	50
Mohamed Hoji Essak Elias	50
J. B. Bhesania & Co.	11
Hoji Adam Esmail & Co.	10
S. Lejun	25
Doshi Bros.	50
A. M. Essabhoj	125
Fung Tang Kee	50
Tang Yuen Cheong	50
Choi Ping Un	10
Un Lai Chuen	100
Chan Shek Sun	50
Chit Cheong	50
Chan Ip Tong	100
Chung Shun Koo	300
Sing Tai	50
Yü Wai Kee	50
Wing Sing Loong	70
Ming Kee	100
Mrs. Chan Kam Yee	100
Copper and Iron Dealers	95.50
Vermilion Dealers	50
Medicine Dealers	325
Piece Goods and Silk Dealers	546
Pawnbrokers	600
Chinese Bankers	685
Chan Tin Shun	500
Lesser Chinese Subscriptions	718.20

Total ... \$17,092.68

Subscription Lists are now closed.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST JULY.

	LEVEL.	1902.	1903.
	Above overflow.	Above overflow.	Above overflow.
Tytam	0 ft. 2½ in.	0 ft. 3½ in.	
	Level.	Level.	
Pokfulam	0 ft. 0 in.	0 ft. 0 in.	
	Above overflow.	Below overflow.	
Wongneicheong	1 ft. 9 in.	0 ft. 5 in.	
	STORAGE GALLONS.		
	1902.	1903.	
Tytam	386,610,000	387,320,000	
Pokfulam	66,000,000	66,000,000	
Wongneicheong	32,895,000	29,728,000	
Total	485,495,000	483,048,000	

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE.

	1902.	1903.
Consumption	111,331,000	130,139,000 gallons
Estimated population	214,300	219,200

Consumption per head per day 17.3 19.7 gallons

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE.

	1902.	1903.
Consumption	15,757,000	13,315,000 gallons
Estimated population	56,500	62,450

Consumption per head per day 9.2 7.1 gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

"ROHILLA MARU" IN COLLISION.

The following is taken from the Manila *Cablenews* of the 13th inst.:—

The *Rohilla Maru* collided with the Quarter-master Collier No. 3 yesterday morning just as she was starting on her trip to Hongkong. It was with disastrous results to herself, as she had a hole torn in her bow, near the fore-castle about three feet long and two feet wide. The bowsprit of the collier was torn off, and the latter vessel damaged to a greater or less extent.

According to an eye-witness of the accident, the *Rohilla Maru* was coming around the lower end of the U.S.A.T. *Logan* at about the same time that the launch *Saint Louis* was towing collier No. 3 out from the back of the breakwater. It appears that the captain of the *Rohilla Maru* did not see that the launch had the collier in tow until it was too late to avoid a collision. As soon as the collier was seen to be in tow, the *Rohilla Maru* reversed her engines and began to back, but the tow-line of the collier having been cast off the launch, she kept under way of her own impetus and before the *Rohilla Maru* could back far enough out the way, the collier ran squarely into her bow, tearing a large, jagged hole in the boat high above the water line and otherwise doing some damage.

Captain Bishop claims that when he started around the stern of the *Logan* he gave the necessary whistles and that he did not see the tow-line or the collier, but supposed that all was safe, as the *Saint Louis* was far enough ahead for him to continue on his way. Just as he got clear from under the *Logan* he saw the collier and immediately gave an order to reverse the engines, which was done. He then said that he began backing up, but that he was afraid to back too fast or too far for fear of backing into the *Logan*. In the meanwhile the collier came ahead at a lively rate of speed and crashed into his bow before he could get out of her way.

The accident delayed the sailing of the *Rohilla Maru* until about 3 p.m. on the 12th inst., as she had to have the hole temporarily patched up, and also had to send in a written statement to the Marine Board. Captain Bishop was called before the board and made the statement previously given. The collier, a very heavy vessel, was loaded with coal, and as she had no means of stopping herself when cast loose from the *Saint Louis*, she kept straight in the direction in which she was being towed. The Marine Board will investigate the matter.

HONGKONG'S ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following statement of the Colony's assets and liabilities on the 31st May, 1903, appears in the *Gazette*:—

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Bank balance			
Crown agents' balance		5,441.55	
Advances, &c.		30,276.25	
Subsidiary coins		350,000.00	
Total assets		\$391,717.80	
Balance		1,064,677.68	
Total		\$2,356,395.48	
LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Deposits not available		478,941.78	
Crown agents' drafts		68,000.00	
Money order remittances		15,563.21	
Balance overdrawn—bank		1,191,891.19	
Total		\$2,356,395.48	
Subsidiary coins in transit	\$900,000		
Estimate of silver at mint	1,105,563		
Total		\$2,005,563	

A Seoul telegram, dated 7th July, quotes a Wiju despatch to the effect that a Russian named Matrioff, who represents himself as a foreman of the timber company, accompanied by a leader of the mounted bandits and ten followers, arrived at Wiju on the 26th ult. and called on the commander of the local garrison. The Russian complained of Japanese attempts to prevent the Russians from carrying out the stipulations mentioned in the Russo-Corean Treaty in regard to timber-felling. The Russian is believed to be a Lieut. Colonel in the Russian army.

HONGKONG.

The total number of plague cases for the year amounted on Saturday, the 25th inst., to 1363.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H. M. the King's birthday is to be observed as a public holiday in future, instead of that of her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

Senhor Conselheiro Romano received a request from the Macao Government to fly the flag at the Portuguese Consulate at half-mast for three days, on the 23rd, 24th and 25th inst., as a mark of respect to His Holiness the late Pope Leo XIII. The same is being done at Macao by order from home.

Hung Kwok-leung, 18 years of age, son of Hung Pan Sam, merchant, 8, Chancery Lane, Hongkong, was on the 26th May admitted as a student of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. Hung Kwok-leung is one of the three boys whom Mr. A. J. May of Queen's College took home with him to England in February last.

The police reported on Friday that a Chinaman was killed in the Cosmopolitan Dock on the previous day. He was working on a staging slung over the side of the U.S. transport *Sumner*, and one of the sustaining-ropes gave way, the unfortunate man being precipitated to the bottom of the dry dock in which the vessels, walying and killed.

Rural Building Lot 115, Peak Road, 2,250 sq. feet, \$12 Crown rent, was offered at \$270 and was bought by Mr. A. Bryer for an advance of \$20 on that figure, there being no competition. Tai Hang Inland Lot 162 was purchased by Mr. Foo Sik for \$1,475, an advance of \$800 upon the upset price; and Lot 163 went to Mr. Wong Yu Cheoy for \$1,700, an advance of \$1,025.

The mortality returns for the month of May, just published in the *Gazette*, show a total of 684—43 in the European and foreign community (18 civilians, 3 Army, 2 Navy) and 641 among the Chinese. 367 deaths were due to plague, including 20 in the European and foreign community. The deaths per 1,000 per annum in the latter community (civilians) was 15.2; among the Chinese it was only 25.1 (and population 278,000); for the total civil community the average was 25.7.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on the 2th inst., three lots of Crown land were put up to auction by Mr. L. C. Rees, Principal Land Surveyor. Most interest centred in the acquisition of Marine Lot 282, situated on the Praya Reclamation opposite the Sailors' Home, comprising 35,910 sq. feet and having an annual Crown rent of \$60. The upset price was \$75,550, and after spirited bidding it was knocked down to Mr. A. Shelton Hooper for the Hongkong Land Investment Co. at the price of \$274,000, an advance of nearly \$100,000 on the upset.

A London paper quotes the following: At Hongkong the other day a Chinaman was fined two pounds for biting the thumb of a policeman. The defendant thus denied the charge: "I did not bite him, sir. I was in a crowd, when feeling a hand rudely thrust against my ear, I turned round suddenly, closing my mouth as I did so. I found the policeman's hand in my mouth, and he seemed pained. So was I. We remember the circumstances, but not the fine; the nature of which suggests the existence of a currency whose stability would ensure freedom from the worries of the fluctuating dollar.

The unusual spectacle of a Chinaman sitting in the stocks was witnessed in Queen's Road Central on the 1th inst., opposite Messrs. Gaup's premises, and drew large crowds of natives, who displayed as little sympathy for the object of their regard as he deserved. He was the man who stole Miss Berkeley's purse in the street on the previous day, and the offence of which he was guilty, with the sentences passed upon him, was set forth in Chinese characters on a placard which he held in front of him. Such an exemplary way of dealing with these street thieves should go far towards teaching them the lesson they require.

Lord and Lady Lonsdale were passengers by the N. Y. K. s.s. *Yamato Maru*, which sailed on the 17th inst. for Australia.

The Hongkong Jockey Club has decided to accept a tender from the Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd., for the supply of China ponies for the 1904 Race Meeting. We understand that the prices of the ponies will be higher than before.

We have received a communication from the Hon. F. H. May, Colonial Secretary, informing us that the winner in the competition for the new local Post Office buildings is Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs, and that the premium of \$1,500 offered for the next best plans submitted has been won by Messrs. Palmer and Turner.

Telegraphic news from Canton was received on the 20th inst. in the Colony to the effect that the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.'s s.s. *Pouan*, due in Canton at six o'clock in the morning, was many hours late. The Company's steamer *Honam*, which left Hongkong at seven o'clock in the morning, and another of their steamers, the *Fatshan*, which left Canton at eight o'clock found that the *Pouan* was in distress in the neighbourhood of the Bogue Forts, a breakdown having taken place in her machinery and rendered her helpless. Her passengers were transferred to the *Honam* and carried on to Canton, while the disabled steamer was taken in tow by the *Fatshan* and brought back for repairs to Hongkong, which was reached about 6 p.m. on the 20th inst.

Jack Grace of America (who recently defeated St. Clair in Shanghai in three rounds) and Sam Newman of Manila, formerly of England, have signed articles to box twenty rounds for a decision, the match to take place in the City Hall between the 4th and 6th August. Grace comes here with a splendid record, having fought with such well known pugilists as Kid McCoy, Jack Everhardt, George McFadden, and others. He has travelled all over the world, being now on his second trip round the globe, and he has fought with distinction wherever he went. Newman also comes well recommended, having disposed of some good men in his class. Mr. J. Christie is looking after his interests. Both men will be in hard training by tomorrow and a tough and straightforward encounter will be looked for when they meet.

A Church Parade of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps took place on the 19th inst. to Union Church, the officers and men assembling at Headquarters at 4 o'clock. Major A. Chapman was in command and there were on parade about 70 members of the Corps, the other officers present being Captain R. Mitchell, Lieut. J. H. W. Armstrong, Lieut. T. Skinner, Lieut. G. P. Lammert, Lieut. W. Nicholson, Lieut. W. A. Crane, Lieut. M. S. Northcote, Lieut. Barrett, Lieut. Scott, and Serjt.-Major J. Power. It had been arranged that the band of the 33rd Burmas should be in attendance, but they were late in putting in an appearance and the Volunteers had to march to church without them. The band, however, followed up afterwards and played the corps back to Headquarters. At the church the service was conducted by the Rev. C. H. Hickling, and there was special music sung by the choir. Mr. George Arncliffe presided at the organ.

Lady Blake was "at home" at Mountain Lodge on the 21st inst. from 4 to 6.30 p.m. The reception was favoured by almost perfect weather for this time of year in Hongkong, and the charming surroundings of the Governor's Peak residence were therefore very much appreciated, the clearness of the air making the various views look their very best, while the shower earlier in the day had a beneficial effect on the temperature. The guests arrived in relays from 4 to 6 o'clock, being received by the hostess, H. E. the Governor, and Captain and Mrs. Arbuthnot, and the scene on the upper lawn was very animated. The band of the Sherwood Foresters played an excellent selection of music throughout the afternoon, and about 5 o'clock a troupe of Japanese jugglers started to give a clever entertainment. Later on a putting competition was held for those interested in golf. Refreshments were served in two marquees in the meantime. All circumstances combined to make the "at home" most successful.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A report states that the Russian authorities have decided to permit Japanese to purchase leases of land at Dalny, which up to now has been forbidden.

According to the *N.-C. Daily News* Tokyo correspondent, work has been abandoned on the Russian telegraph between Antung and Yung-Ampho in consequence of the remonstrances of Corea.

According to recent Japanese papers, the belief is current in Japan that the Port Arthur Conference was at first in favour of a peaceful solution, but the news of a Cabinet crisis at Tokyo gave the war party their opportunity, and a final decision was accordingly postponed.

It is understood that whilst the Sultan of Kelantan has seen fit to accept the offer of Sir Frank Swettenham to be present at the Federated States Conference, the ruler of Tringgannu has declined. Under the circumstances, says the *Straits Times*, this news is not likely to cause any astonishment.

As a means of retrenching expenses, says the *Shanghai Times*, Viceroy Wei Kuang-tuo has ordered the Polytechnic Institute in Nanking to be amalgamated with the High School, retaining those students only who have obtained a B.A. or M.A. degree at the ordinary Government examinations in Chinese literature, the rest to be sent about their business.

The Chinese Customs trade returns from Yatung (Tibet) for the first quarter of the present year show that 27,649 loads were carried inwards and outwards as against 20,679 loads during the corresponding quarter of last year. The value of the imports from India during the quarter was Rs. 3,36,641 as against Rs. 2,85,201 during the corresponding quarter of 1902, and of the exports to India Rs. 3,62,877 as against Rs. 2,15,051 during the first quarter of 1902. The total value of the trade registered during the quarter was thus Rs. 6,99,518 as against Rs. 5,00,251 during the first quarter of 1902.

The P. & O. s.s. *Massila*, which left Singapore on the 10th inst. for Bombay, took \$1,900,000 from the Currency Note reserve for Bombay, where they will be kept until the arrival of the new dies when they will be re-coined. The dies for the new dollars have been made in London. It is understood that the design will be quite different from that of the present Straits dollars, and that their principal feature will be that they will bear across the face the denomination of the coin—"One Dollar"—with the King's head on the other side. They are also, it is believed, to be slightly reduced in size.

The death of Mr. John Goddard, at the age of 80, occurred at the General Hospital, Yokohama, on the 6th instant. The deceased lived for many years in Yokohama. He came out from England to Hongkong in 1842, at the age of 18, and entered the employment of the Jardine firm, being afterwards transferred to Yokohama. Subsequently he started business on his own account and later became secretary of the Yokohama United Club. About 1881 he proceeded with his wife and family to Australia, and made his home there until rather more than a year ago, when he returned to Japan, staying with his son-in-law. He leaves a widow, three sons, and three daughters.

The *Navy Krai* of Port Arthur learns from Vladivostok that the authorities have decided as to the future of that place. It is reported that the seat of the Government will be transferred to Nikolai, as will also several administrative departments, such as the Customs Department and the District Board. In proportion as Vladivostok ceases to be of importance as a centre of administration, it will be developed on other lines. Thus, the Admiralty buildings are to be enlarged, and several barracks are to be built in various quarters of the town. It thus seems certain that Vladivostok is destined to lose its character as a commercial centre, and to be converted into a military supporting base.

In a Reuter's telegram to India with regard to the new Canton Viceroy, H. E. Shum (Tsun) appears as Tsun-chun-li-shan. The humour of the middle name is delightful.

Pinco Su has been impeached by one of the Captors, among other things for riding in a four-wheeled carriage!

Lieut. Ivo Barrett, the well-known Hampshire cricketer, is expected in the Straits Settlements, having been seconded for service with the Malay States Guides.

The Singapore Football Challenge Cup was won on the 10th inst. by the Singapore Cricket Club, who defeated the Fort Canning Recreation Club in the final by two goals to nil.

The following notes are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 11th inst.—H.E. the Tartar General, who is also for the time being Acting Viceroy of the province, returned the official call of H.B.M. Consul, Mr. H. F. Brady, yesterday morning.—The typhoon passing up the coast has given us another week of dull cloudy skies and a cool temperature, which in view of the certainty of plenty of sunshine and oppressive heat in the near future has been much appreciated. The less said about the accompanying damp the better.—The injury done to the growing paddy by the late floods is said to be less than was at one time thought to be the case by the farmers, though still considerable. The harvesting in the plain under Kushan is to commence next week, weather permitting.

The *Navy* *Vremya* gets hold of some very curious information at times, writes the *Kobe Chronicle*. The latest "scoop" is in regard to Japan. According to a Berlin telegram to the *Deutsche Japan-post*, the Russian journal has information from Japan that in view of the friendly relations entertained by Japan towards all the Powers, and in spite of the war rumours circulated by the English Press, the building of new men-of-war will not take place, and the Land-tax will not be increased. While it is true that the Land-tax is not to be increased, it is not true that Japan has abandoned the Naval Extension scheme; on the contrary the orders for additional vessels have already been placed. It would be interesting to know from what quarter in Japan the *Navy* *Vremya's* information emanated.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1902-3 lbs.	1901-2 lbs.
Yokohama	13,377,910	9,060,067
Hioogo	—	—
	13,377,910	9,060,067

SILK

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1902-3 bales.	1901-2 bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	28,159	27,013
	28,159	27,013

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1902-3 bales.	1901-2 bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	48,443	41,396
	48,443	41,396

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 24th July.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG 24th July.—The prices are slightly advancing, market being brisk.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.45 to \$8.50	pel.
Do, 2, White	7.75 to 7.80	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.15 to 5.20	"
Do, 2, Brown	5.00 to 5.05	"
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.35 to 8.40	"
Do, 1, White	7.60 to 7.65	"
Do, 1, Brown	5.05 to 5.10	"
Do, 2, Brown	4.90 to 4.95	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.70 to 12.75	"
Shekloong	10.80 to 10.85	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 24th July.—The further advance in price is reported, market being firm.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.95 to 4.00
Round, Good quality	5.35 to 5.40
Long	5.50 to 5.55
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.10 to 4.15
Garden, No. 1	4.65 to 4.70
White	5.50 to 5.55
Fine Cargo	5.65 to 5.70

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Manda*, sailed on 11th July. For London:—14,971 boxes tea, 80 packages tea, 62 packages tea Amoy, 1,499 bales hemp, 13 cases cigars, 12 packages private effects, 410 rolls mats and matting, 78 bales canes, 9 bags M. O. P. shells, 14 cases chinaware, 4 cases feathers, 50 bales feathers. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Buenos Ayres:—125 packages tea. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios.

Per P. & O. steamer *Ballaarat*, sailed on 18th July. For London:—105 bales raw silk, 25 bales waste silk, 50 cases bristles, 80 rolls mats, 7 cases chinaware, 1 case blackwoodware, 1 case silks, 4 cases feathers, 3 chests Turkish opium. For Lyons:—254 bales raw silk. For Manchester:—29 bales waste silk. For Buenos Ayres:—1 case silks. For London and Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—120 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 5 cases feathers.

Per steamer *Hamburg*, sailed on 22nd July. For Southampton:—1 case sundries. For Rangoon:—17 cases clocks. For Colombo:—358 bags beans, 50 rolls matting. For Aden:—5 cases porcelain. For Naples:—150 bales waste silk, 50 half-chests tea, 2 packages tea. For Genoa:—215 bales raw silk, 201 bales waste silk, 20 cases essential oil. For Antwerp:—47 bales shells, 40 half-chests tea. For Antwerp and Hamburg:—51 boxes bristles. For Antwerp and London:—72 bales split bamboo. For Amsterdam:—50 boxes cassia, 21 cases chinaware. For Rotterdam:—300 boxes tea, 165 half-chests tea. For Bremen:—505 half-chests tea, 40 boxes tea, 9 cases sundries. For Hamburg:—442 half-chests tea, 20 cases cassia, 150 bales chinaware, 40 bales feathers, 25 boxes tea, 20 cases essential oil, 8 cases blackwoodware, 6 cases sundries, 5 packages tea, 3 boxes bristles, 1 case curios. For Hamburg and London:—10 cases bristles. For London:—610 rolls matting.

Per P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, sailed on 23rd July. For London:—2,001 bales hemp, 9 cases cigars, 6,394 boxes tea, 75 packages tea, 348 packages firecrackers, 2 cases feathers, 1 case silk, 2 boxes safes. For Marseilles:—220 m boxes tea.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd July.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$8.00.00 to \$128.00
English Nos. 16 to 24	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32	130.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42	155.00 to 170.00

	per piece
COTTON PIECE GOODS	
Grey Shirtings—3 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 in.	2.90 to 3.25
58 to 60	3.50 to 4.00
64 to 66	4.25 to 5.75
Fine	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds	5.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y	2.30 to 2.80
7 lbs. (32 in.)	2.50 to 3.00
6 lbs. (32 in.), Mexs.	2.50 to 3.00
7 lbs. (32 in.)	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/4	4.75 to 7.30
to 14 lbs.	

FANCY COTTONS—Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 1 5/8 lbs. 1.50 to 5.50

Brocades—Dyed	— to —
DAMASKS	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	— to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.29 to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in	0.26 to 0.29
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.30 to 5.00
V. OULENS	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.75 to 2.25
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00

	per piece
Long Ella—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	7.45 to 9.50
Assorted	7.60 to 9.65
Camlets—Assorted	13.50 to 38.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	14.00 to 21.00
Assorted	
Orleans—Plain	10.00 to —
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.65 to 0.90
Fine quality	1.60 to 2.50

	per picul
METALS—	
Iron—Nail Rod	4.50 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.55 to —
Swedish Bar	4.55 to —
Small Round Rod	4.50 to —
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	6.50 to —
Wire, 16/25	0.90 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.20 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.40 to —
Australian	8.40 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	41.00 to —
Vivian's 14 20 oz.	41.00 to —
Elliot's 14 20 oz.	41.00 to —
Composition Nails	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00 to —
Tin	84.00 to —

	box	per
Tin-Plates	7.40	to —
Steel 1 to 1	6.75	to —
SUNDRIES—		per picul
Quicksilver	177.00	to —
Window Glass	5.00	to —

SHANGHAI, 17th July. (from Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's. Piece Goods Trade Report).—After the close of our last circular a fair business was done chiefly in Whites and Fancies for shipment during the later autumn months on private terms, but during this week the demand has gradually become less and less and the market closes very dull. To the tightness of the native money market is attributed the main cause of this stagnation and such stringency recurring as it has done so frequently of late, is to be regretted, as it cannot but eventually cripple the trading facilities of all concerned in the business, as high interest means enhanced prices which in turn tends to curtail consumption. Clearances show a falling off as is only natural at this time of the year, but besides this merchants are unable to get the usual facilities from the Native Banks. There is very little doing for either Tientsin or Newchwang, but here again the tightness of money stops business as it is reported that there are actual orders in the hands of dealers here who do not care to buy under the present circumstances and who for want of funds are unable to effect clearances. The Up-River Markets are again suffering from the effects of floods, which although not so bad as those of 1901, are likely to cause much damage to the growing crops. We hear, however, that the Szechuen market is good especially for Indian spinnings and in some quarters it is said that as much as ten taels per bale profit is being made. If such be the case it is to be hoped that a good business will ensue as soon as navigation is again practicable. Ningpo is rather quieter, the good purchases recently made having apparently supplied what was wanted for the time being. The Manchester Cotton market is easier.

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 25th July.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	118 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	118 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	119
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	119 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	119 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	119 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	219
Credits 4 months' sight	222 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	178
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	43 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	130 1/2
Bank, on demand	130 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	130 1/2
Bank, on demand	130 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	84 1/2

ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	104 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.50
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	61.50
BAR SILVER, per oz.	25 1/2

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 24th July, 1903.—There has been practically no change in the general condition of our market during the past week, and business continues almost as restricted as before.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have receded to \$680 with sales and probable further sales. The London quotation is slightly higher at £64. Nationals have been booked at the reduced rate of \$27.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have been looked at \$500, and a few more shares are procurable at this figure. China Traders have been taken off the market at \$62, and Cantons at \$80. Yangtzes and North Chinas are unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are enquired for at \$327 1/2. Chinas have been placed at \$87, \$87 1/2 and \$88, and a few more shares are obtainable at the latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are still in request at \$88 after sales at this figure and \$38 1/2. Indo-Chinas are in some request at \$95, and Douglases at \$40. China and Manilas are easier with probable sellers at \$21 and \$16 for the old and new issues respectively. Star Ferries continue in request at \$27 (old) and \$17 (new). Shell Transports have sold and can still be placed at £1. 2s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have declined to \$92 1/2, at which a small parcel is enquired for. Luzons are without change at \$10 buyers.

MINING.—Panjoms have changed hands in fairly large quantities at from \$2.50 down to \$2, and close in request at the latter rate. Raubs are unchanged at \$8 1/2 buyers, and Jelebus at \$1 1/2 sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are easier with sellers at \$215 after sales at \$215 and \$215 1/2. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been looked at \$88 and close in further request at the rate. New Amoy Docks are in request at \$37 1/2 ex the dividend of \$2 1/2 per share for 1902 paid on the 8th instant. Fairbanks are enquired for at Tls. 157 1/2 ex the final dividend of Tls. 8 per share for 1902 paid on the 17th instant.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold in small lots at \$161 and \$160, and close with sellers at the former rate. Kowloon Lands continue on offer at \$38. West Points are quiet at \$52. Humphreys Estates are in demand at \$2. Hongkong Hotels have sold at \$150 and can be still obtained at this figure. Oriente Hotel's are firmer with buyers at \$4 1/2.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewes have been sold at Tls. 36. Internationals are on offer at Tls. 40. Laou Kung Mows are wanted at Tls. 40. Hongkongs have buyers at \$15.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have sold and can still be placed at \$24. China Borneos are easier with sellers at \$10. Ices have improved to \$50 buyers. Steam Water-bags are in request at \$14 1/2 and B.eries at \$10. United Asbestos (ordinary) can be placed at \$10 and (founders) at the improved rates of \$225. At the forthcoming meeting of this Company it is proposed to pay a dividend of 9 cents per share on the ordinary stock and \$29.70 per share on the founders' for the year ended 31st May last.

MEETINGS.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steam-boat Co., Ltd. ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 4th August. Wm. Lowell, Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 5th August; transfer books closed from the 31st instant. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 15th August; transfer books closed from the 1st August. United Asbestos Oriental Agency Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 5th August.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$680, sales
Natl. Bank of China		£64, London, £64.
A. Shares	£8	\$27, sales
B. Shares	£8	\$27, sales
Found. Shares	£1	\$10
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$6, sales
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$64
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$92 1/2, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$250, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 36, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160
Hongkong	\$100	\$15, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47 1/2
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$24, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12 60, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$7, buyers
Hk. Steam Water Boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$320
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$150, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$250, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & Co.	\$50	\$88, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145
H. & W. Dock Insurance	\$50	\$215, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$180, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$88
China Traders	\$25	\$62, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$327 1/2, buyers
North China	\$25	Tls. 230
Straits	\$20	\$1, nominal
Union	\$100	\$500, sales & sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Land and Building		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$161, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$10	\$8, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$52
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Pes. 250	\$800, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$1 1/2, sellers
Panjom	\$11	\$2, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	30 cents
Raubs	18 10	\$8 1/2, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$37 1/2, ex div.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$12 1/2, buyers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$1, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$21
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, sales & buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$38, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$95, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	\$41. 2. 6, sales & buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$27, buyers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 157 1/2, ex div., b.
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$225, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$23, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14 1/2, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 16th July (from Messrs. J. P. Bisse & Co.'s Report). A considerable business has been done during the past week, but owing to the tightness of money we have to record a fall in Furnham Boyds and Langkats. At closing there is a better feeling in these Stocks, and they are enquired for at slightly higher rates. BANKS.—H. and S. Banks, steady at \$680 buyers. Shares were placed locally at \$695 ex. 73 for August delivery; the London quotation is £68. 15/-. Nationals are wanted at \$28. MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have been placed at 490 ex 73. China Traders at \$33 1/2 cash and 64 1/2 delivery, in February 1904. Traders are offering locally.

In other stocks under this heading no transaction is reported. FIRE INSURANCE.—No business. SHIPPING.—H. C. and M. Steam Boats (\$38) buyers. Indo-Chinas: The market opened on the 10th with sales at Tls. 75 1/2/76 cum div. and at 75 December. On the 11th, 76 for July delivery was paid, and on the 13th 71 ex. div. of 10. per share which was paid here at Ex. 24.9/16 Tls. 4.20. On the 15/16th July shares were placed at 70 and 68 for August; the market closes quiet. This is the only movement in Stocks under this heading. DOCKS AND WHARVES.—S. C. Fernham, Boyd. A considerable business has been done in these. The market opened on the 10th with sales at Tls. 175 July delivery and on the 11th at 172 1/2 July and 182 October. On the 13th at Tls. 170 cash and 175 September. On the 14th at Tls. 170 cash, 171 1/2 August and 177 1/2 October. On the 15th at 165 and 167 1/2 cash, and 165 July, 170 and 171 1/2 September. On the 16th July, Shares were placed at 165 and 167 1/2 with sales for September at 170, and October 171 1/2. The final dividend of Tls. 8 has been paid to-day. The market is quoted nominal 160. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks: Sales \$215. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves. No business reported; shares are obtainable at 282 1/2. Kowloon Wharves buyers \$87. SUGAR Co.'s—Peraks are offering at Tls. 70. China Sugars at MINING.—The only business reported is in Wei-hai-wei Golds, at \$21 and Kaipings at 6.75. LANDS.—Shanghais are offering at Tls. 110. Hongkongs steady at \$160 and Humphreys at \$12. INDUSTRIAL.—The only transaction in Cotton Stocks reported is in Laou Kung Mows at Tls. 42 1/2. Shanghai Gas have been placed at Tls. 112 1/2. Maatschappij & Co. in Langkat. A large business has been done in this stock at weakening rates. The market on the 10th with sales for cash at Tls. 306 1/2, 307 1/2, with sales for July at 310 and 307 1/2, for September 317 1/2 and 315, and for Oct. 320, 325, 322 1/2, 317 1/2, and 325 Nov. On the 11th shares were placed at Tls. 317 1/2 Sept., 322 1/2 and 32 1/2 Oct. On the 13th shares were placed at 300 cash and 315 Sept. On the 14th cash shares were placed at 300, and 300/295 July. On the 15th cash and July shares were placed at 295 and again at 29 1/2 July, with sales at 295, 297 1/2 and 300 Sept. and 300 Oct. On the 16th cash and July shares were placed at 285, 295 Sept., and 300 Oct. The market closes firmer and a sale is reported at Tls. 290 July. Sumatras have been placed and are wanted at Tls. 50. STORES & HOTELS.—Hall and Holtz have been placed at Tls. 33, Astor House at \$30, and Centrals at \$25 ex. div. Telephones have been placed at Tls. 68.

MANILA.—Messrs. W. A. Fitton & Co. say in their Market Report dated Manila P. I., July 6th.—Since the issue of our circular of 1st ultimo, our Share Market has remained quiet and inactive. Transactions: Small lots of Manila Investment, Philippine Tobacco Trusts, Varadero, Ice Co., and Matitinas have been placed at quotations, but the total amount of sales is of little importance. Demand continues light owing to the stringency of our money market, and the disinclination on the part of would-be investors to operate until our financial system is reorganized. Meeting: The Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd. held its 3rd semi-annual meeting on the 30th ultimo. The Balance Sheet covering the working of the Company for the six months ending April 30th last shows the sum of \$143,771.61 carried to the debit of Profit & Loss A/c, as against \$111,575.64 at 31st October last. American Bank are pleased to announce that as a result of the earnings of the quarter ending 30th ultimo they have placed the sum of \$1,300.00, being the net profits for the quarter, in the Surplus Fund, making the latter now stand at \$8,000.00 U. S. currency. General: Business continues dull and our Bankers and Merchants are anxiously awaiting to see the result of the change in our currency system, which it is expected will come into operation very shortly. We sincerely trust that the "fifty cent" peso will relieve the present tension in our financial circles.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Kintuck, Nestor, Stentor, Glancus, Sanuki Maru, Tydeus.
FOR LONDON.—Coromandel, Benedi, Kintuck, Nestor, Stentor, Glancus, Sanuki Maru, Tydeus.
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Pingsuey, Diemed.
FOR MARSEILLE.—Kintuck, Nestor, Polynesian, Stentor, Glancus, Sanuki Maru, Tydeus.
FOR BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich, Wurzburg.
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sithonia, Wurzburg, Badenia, Konigsberg, Andalusia.
FOR ODESSA.—H. Lerche.
FOR NEW YORK.—Arabia, Saint Dede, Verona, Keenebec, Albenga.
FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indrapura.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July — ARRIVALS

17, Albanga, German str., from New York.
 17, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from K'nozu.
 17, Ballarat, British str., from Shanghai.
 17, Bengal, British str., from Bombay.
 17, Bengloe, British str., from London.
 17, Borg, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 17, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 17, Hoihao, French str., from Hoihow.
 17, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 17, Kingsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 17, Kowloon, German str., from Canton.
 17, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 17, Sullberg, German str., from Swatow.
 18, Braemar, British str., from London.
 18, Decima, German str., from Sourabaya.
 18, Keng-Beng, German str., from Bangkok.
 18, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 18, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 18, Trieste, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 18, Tsintan, German str., from Kolsichang.
 18, Wooming, British str., from Canton.
 19, Airlie, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 19, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 19, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 19, Germania, German str., from Samarang.
 19, Haimun, British str., from Amoy.
 19, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 19, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 19, Ingalls, American str., from Manila.
 19, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from S'pore.
 19, Luchs, German gunboat, from Pakhoi.
 19, Sirius, British cruiser, from Singapore.
 19, Solveig, Norwegian str., from Cardiff.
 19, Summer, American str., from Manban.
 19, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 20, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 20, Emma Luyken, German str., from traits.
 21, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.
 21, Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.
 20, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 20, Paoting, British str., from Chefoo.
 20, Peleus, British str., from Foochow.
 20, Prometheus, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 20, Paoting, British str., from Chefoo.
 20, Peleus, British str., from Foochow.
 20, Prometheus, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Goodwin, British str., from Barry Dock.
 21, Hamburg, German str., from Yokohama.
 21, Taiyang, British str., from Chefoo.
 21, Tsinan, British str., from Australia.
 21, Tsunugisan Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 21, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 22, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 22, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 22, Benlarig, British str., from Rangoon.
 22, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 22, Ceylon, British str., from Yokohama.
 22, C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
 22, Elsa, German str., from Rangoon.
 22, Hailan, French str., from Swatow.
 22, Hailoong, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, Ichang, British str., from Amoy.
 22, Kennebec, British str., from Moji.
 22, Mazagon, British str., from Moji.
 22, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Sachsen, German str., from Hamburg.
 22, Simongan, Dutch str., from Moji.
 23, Candia, British str., from London.
 23, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 23, Fereric, German str., from Wellington.
 23, Loyal, German str., from Hongay.
 23, Maefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 23, P. C. Klao, German str., from Bangkok.
 23, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 23, Sigrid, Russian str., from Moji.
 23, Taiyuan, British str., from Kobe.
 24, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 24, Hector, British str., from Liverpool.
 24, Keemun, British str., from Kobe.
 24, Lena, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 24, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 24, Thea, German str., from Newchwang.
 24, Toonan, Chinese str., from Canton.
 24, Victoria, American str., from Tacoma.
 25, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
 25, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
 25, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 25, Lysemon, German str., from Shanghai.
 25, Sakuma, British str., from New York.
 25, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 25, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 25, Ulbrand, Norwegian str., from Moji.

July —

DEPARTURES.

17, Alesia, German str., for Shanghai.
 17, Arab, British str., for Sourabaya.
 17, Ava Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 17, Ayr, Norwegian str., for Karatsu.
 17, C. Richmond, French bq., for S. America.
 17, Edendale, Brit. str., for Nooknot (Annam).
 17, Haldis, Norwegian str., for Amoy.
 17, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 17, Hupeh, British str., for Kobe.
 17, Merionethshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 17, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 17, Siam, British str., for Singapore.
 17, Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
 17, Wosang, British str., for Kobe.
 17, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 18, Ballarat, British str., for Europe.
 18, Balmoral, British str., for Manila.
 18, Bengal, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Clara Jebson, German str., for Hoihow.
 18, Changechow, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Diomed, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Hinsang, British str., for Sourabaya.
 18, Huron, British str., for Moji.
 18, Kingsing, British str., for Canton.
 18, Koun Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 18, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 18, Macchow, German str., for Bangkok.
 18, P. C. C. Klao, German str., for Bangkok.
 18, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
 18, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 18, Shantung, German str., for Swatow.
 18, Trigla, Austrian str., for Tournon.
 19, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 19, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Hermann Lecher, Russian str., for Odessa.
 19, Himalaya, French str., for Taku.
 19, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 19, Kentmere, British 4-m. bq., for Baltimore.
 19, Naushan, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Prosper, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 19, Rosario, British sloop, for Singapore.
 20, Airlie, British str., for Manila.
 20, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 20, Kowloon, German str., for Wuhu.
 20, Macduff, British str., for New York.
 20, M. Baquehem, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 20, Mausang, British str., for Candakun.
 20, Narnberg, German str., for Singapore.
 20, Scotsman, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
 20, Woosung, British str., for New York.
 21, Albenga, German str., for New York.
 21, Braemar, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Cassius, German str., for Calcutta.
 21, Hainan, British str., for Tamsui.
 21, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 21, Hoihao, French str., for Haiphong.
 21, Kagoshima Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Peleus, British str., for London.
 21, Prometheus, British str., for Liverpool.
 21, Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 22, America Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
 22, Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 22, Borg, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 22, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 22, Goodwin, British str., for Weihaiwei.
 22, Hamburg, German str., for Europe.
 22, Hui, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 22, Ichang, British str., for Canton.
 22, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 22, Sullberg, German str., for Newchwang.
 22, Taiyang, British str., for Canton.
 22, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
 22, Trieste, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 23, Baularig, British str., for Yokohama.
 23, Bengloe, British str., for Nagasaki.
 23, Ceylon, British str., for London.
 23, Elsa, German str., for Yokohama.
 23, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 23, Kong Beng, German str., for Bangkok.
 23, Lalpoora, British str., for Amoy.
 23, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 23, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 23, Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
 24, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinotzu.
 24, Kaifong, British str., for Iloilo.
 24, Mazagon, British str., for London.
 24, Oceana, German str., for Sydney.
 24, Sigrid, Russian str., for Batavia.
 24, Tsunugisan Maru, Jap. str., for K'nozu.
 25, Child, German str., for Swatow.
 25, C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 25, Germanica, German str., for Amoy.

25, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 25, Hoppsang, British str., for Hongay.
 25, Keemun, British str., for Manila.
 25, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 25, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 25, Tsintan, German str., for Swatow.
 25, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Bengal, for Hongkong, from London, Lieut. J. F. Knox, Messrs. Heywood and W. H. Bond; from Marseilles, Mr. F. Rickard; from Bombay, Mr. J. B. Shroff; from Singapore, Messrs. A. Moir, R. Gutierrez, and S. C. Hallam; for Yokohama, from Port Said, Mr. R. S. Clark.

Per Ballarat, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. Woxon; for Bombay, Mr. E. Muncherje; for Marseilles, Mr. R. C. R. Johnson; for London, Mr. I. Smith.

Per Hamburg, from Yokohama, &c., Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. H. Droetz and child, &c., and Mrs. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Locksmith, Mrs. Lajajofski, Mr. and Mrs. Vogt, Mrs. A. Leland, Misses Hawksley, John, E. Boniton, L. Budde and E. Hunt, Messrs. F. Verakius, H. Wendt, Madlung, Z. Moriya, Hutchison, E. Blanchard, Boutinor, O. Voltz, P. Vloer, Trobitins, H. Zietler, B. Ornstein, Goldan, Vallack, F. Brenner, M. Mink, D. Frenmann, Aldresen and A. Canning.

Per Sachsen, from Bremerhaven, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Lempriere, Messrs. A. Vahkampff, C. H. Pogo, Wlad, Koliakowsky, von Stranch and Geo. McBain.

DEPARTED.

Per Ballarat, from Hongkong, for Penang, Mr. W. D. Graham; for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Bauvad; for London, Mrs. French and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Miss Machin and Gunner C. J. Cain; from Shanghai, for Bombay, Mr. Edulji Muncherji; from Marseilles, Mr. R. C. K. Johnson; for London, Mr. I. Smith.

Per Hamburg, for Hamburg, &c., Mrs. Holz, Mrs. A. McLalland, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Locksmith, Capt. and Mrs. Maczell, Mr. and Mrs. E. Oltmans, Mr. and Mrs. Vogt, Misses E. Boulton, L. Badde, E. Hunt and Jahn, Mr. C. I. Hick and family, Mr. Erwin Muller and family, D. S. Hart and L. Jonker, Messrs. J. v. d. Broek d'Obrenan, Clews, P. Cunliffe, Horbat, Bernard D. zentje, W. J. H. Hayz-r and child, J. C. Le Cain, Madlung, A. K. Moosdern, Z. Moriya, H. Orustein, Charles A. Sutton, L. Pick I. P. van Rossum, J. W. R. Slang-koon, Wm. Sorley, L. C. Thye, Trobitins, Vallack, G. Wade Share, P. Wagner and child, J. Wally and child and Zettler.

Per America Maru, for Shanghai, Mrs. McGee, Miss Roberts, Messrs. H. A. Fisher and M. S. Morvellan; for Nagasaki, Mrs. and Miss Mortera and Mr. A. Calco; for Kobe, Mr. Sakurai; for Yokohama, Mrs. T. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Williamson and infant, Mrs. H. Jerv-z, Master W. Jerv-z, Mrs. M. Manser, Messrs. R. S. Clark, A. Joris, B. F. Richards, B. C. Edwards, Preble and C. pt. N. Tate; for San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hastings, Mrs. W. J. Leary, Miss Aileen Leary, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Steele and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Z. J. Dunn, Miss M. T. G. cason, Messrs. V. Quioque, A. J. Francis, D. Maun, G. H. van Mater, M. A. Hamburger, M. I. Palaski, J. S. Hill, T. H. Wedges, S. W. Childs, Jas. Clasby, S. R. Price, G. H. Medhurst, A. D. Walker and J. Misbuhr.

Per Sachsen, for Shanghai, Mrs., Miss and Master Medina, Messrs. H. Figge, H. J. Bigley, A. D. Radcliffe, V. P. Musso de Peralta, U. E. Sly, A. Cameron, D. Bruce Simmons, N. M. Mahomed, F. Medina, A. Woelfor, and M. transen; for Nagasaki, Mr. Krator and daughter; for Kobe, Messrs. H. M. S. H. Email and M. Katrumata; for Yokohama, Mrs. F. Molina, Mrs. C. V. de Liebau, Mrs. Ponier and son, Miss M. Liebau, Rev. G. J. Barnett and Mr. M. Elzinger.

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